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# HISTORY

OF THE

## TOWN OF TOWNSEND,

Mass.  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS,

*FROM THE GRANT OF HATHORN'S FARM,*

1676—1878.

BY

ITHAMAR B. SAWTELLE.

Posterity delights in details.—*John Quincy Adams.*

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.

PRESS OF BLANCHARD & BROWN, FITCHBURG.

1878.

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## TOWN OF TOWNSEND

Massachusetts

ANDERSON COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

FROM THE GRANT OF HAYWARD'S ESTATE

1878-1879

BY

THOMAS B. SAWYER

Issued by the author in 1878—2nd edition 1879

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR

AT THE PRESS OF HAZARD & BROWN, NEWBURYPORT

1878





## INTRODUCTION.

1969356

I have written a History of the Town of Townsend, embracing most of the incidents worthy of record, covering a period of two hundred years. My task is done. I have presented on these pages no elegant word painting. I have described no battle scenes or heroes; no intrigues or crimes of monarchs or their prime ministers; but I have labored faithfully to portray some of the characteristics of our Puritan ancestors, in the dry details of this local history. They came to found an asylum for religious liberty, without any clearly defined ideas of civil government. Their great aim was a pure religion combined with an independent church. Their hopes all centered on this one object, which engrossed their entire efforts, their muscular forces, their dreams by night, their morning and evening orisons. I have endeavored to exhibit the patriotism of our pilgrim fathers, during the revolutionary struggle, in a manner that will suggest the cost of liberty, the price of which is eternal vigilance. If some of the names of those brave men have been wrested from oblivion, and justice done to those now almost forgotten, then I am well paid for the toil through the many weary, yet pleasant hours, spent among the records and papers made one hundred years ago.

It should be the object of every writer of a town history, to preserve the memory of local events and enterprises; to record the manners and customs, the



## INTRODUCTION

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It should be the object of every writer of a town history, to preserve the memory of local events and enterprises; to record the manners and customs, the

sacrifices and toils of the fathers; to gather from old records and family traditions all important facts which the county or state historians have omitted. It is only within a few years that any attention has been paid to the preparation of town histories. In 1851, while the history of New Ipswich, New Hampshire, was in preparation, Mr. Kidder was considered almost a lunatic, while he and his artist were making sketches of the meeting-houses, academy, and old mansions of that town. Now, four of the towns adjoining New Ipswich, have ample local histories nearly as fully illustrated as is the history of that town.

More than two hundred years ago, Thomas Fuller, D.D., a man of excellent learning and great benevolence, wrote as follows:—

"History is a velvet study, and recreation work. What a pitie it is to see a proper gentleman to have such a crick in his neck that he cannot look backward! Yet no better is he who cannot see behind him the actions which long since were performed. History maketh a young man to be old; privileging him with the experience of age, without either the infirmities or inconveniences thereof. Yea, it not only maketh things past, present; but enableth one to make a rationall conjecture of things to come."

In the study of records, I have been brought in contact with some excellent minds. I almost feel acquainted with Samuel Manning, Daniel Adams, James Hosley, and others, who placed on record the acts of the town, through the eventful days of the colonial and revolutionary times. I have almost heard their voices and peered into their pleasant but determined faces. Some of the most interesting facts, however, concerning the transactions which occurred during the first hundred years of our history, and even after that time, were gleaned from outside of the town records. The puritans were men of action not





words. They had little time to commit their thoughts to writing. What they wrote was done more from necessity, than the love of perpetuating the remembrance of their acts.

The history of Townsend should have been written long ago, before the third generation from the fathers passed away. Many things, of great interest, can never be known which might have been learned if a timely effort had been made. Even tradition seems to have died out. The farms, on our hill-sides, once occupied by large families, the sons and daughters of which filled the school houses, and wended their way to one common place of worship, on the sabbath, are now in the hands of strangers. The history of the earliest settlers of this town can never be written satisfactorily. It is impossible to point out the exact location where many of them "broke the wilderness" and built their cabins. In this work, with reference to the ecclesiastical affairs of the town, I have aimed to exhibit a complete and impartial history of the church and its ministers, during the period that the church was a town institution. I have studied the characters of these ministers who brought glad tidings to the fathers during the first hundred years of the towns existence, and I hope I have done justice both to them and the subject. The ministers, who followed Mr. Palmer with the Congregationalists, I have described impartially as they appeared to me. Concerning the other clergymen sketched in this work, I have given their characters as I have learned them from other sources, rather than from observation.

Dr. Johnson said that "he who describes what he never saw draws from fancy." If this proposition be literally true, then we have a greater amount of fiction from the pens of Gibbon, Hume or Irving, than was ever placed to their credit. I have given sketches of men more



fully than most writers of local histories, on the principle laid down by a great writer, that "man is perennially interesting to man." Many persons herein described are now alive. The rule is that men must die before they can be embalmed. If I am not deceived their characters have been accurately drawn.

The records of births, from the settlement of the town to 1800, are incomplete; so that any account that might be gleaned concerning these interesting statistics would not be very satisfactory. In regard to genealogy, I have not pursued that subject to any extent, because some of our most prominent families are already placed on record. The Spaulding, Giles, Stickney, Richardson, and Ball Memorials, have been for some time in possession of these families.

It is impossible that a work of this description, containing such a mass of facts and abounding in dates, should be free from errors. That errors are herein contained is beyond question. I beg my readers to point them out to the next man who will write the supplementary chronicles of the town.

I have received valuable assistance in my labor, while compiling this work, from many sources: from John Langdon Sibley, ex-librarian of Harvard University; from the Librarians of the Historical Societies; from Dr. Strong, who has charge of the Massachusetts Archives; from the courteous and gentlemanly clerks in the office of the Secretary of State; and what has been very agreeable, I have made the acquaintance of a class of historians, genealogists, and antiquarians, who have extended to me their friendly aid and sympathy.

ITHAMAR B. SAWTELLE.

Townsend, March 22, 1878.





# CONTENTS.

---

## CHAPTER I.

### *PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE TOWN.*

Hills—Streams and Brooks—Ash Swamp—Wild Animals—Fishes—  
Birds—Name of the Town—Population. 13—30.

## CHAPTER II.

### *LAND GRANTS AND ORIGINAL PROPRIETORS.*

Frequent Grants by the Assembly—Hathorn's Farm—Jonathan Danforth—Grant of two Towns on the westerly side of Groton west line—Proceedings of the Committee assembled at Concord to grant out said Townships—Names of the Persons to whom Lots were granted—Some Account of the Disagreement between the Proprietors of Dunstable and the North Town—Report of Samuel Danforth concerning the Condition of the North Town in 1730—Charter of the Town of Townshend—Other Land Grants—Cambridge Grammar School Farm—Groton Gore—Location of the Province Line—Earliest Settlers known—Allotment by the Committee of the Proprietors—Account of some Early Settlers—Warrant for calling the First Legal Meeting—Isaac Spaulding—Customs and Fashions of the Early Settlers—Proceedings at the First Meetings of the Proprietors—Proprietors' Clerks—Moderators of the Meetings of the Proprietors—Influence of Concord Men in the Settlement of the Town. 31—76.



## CHAPTER III.

*ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.*

Settlement of Rev. Phineas Hemenway, the First Minister of Townsend—Mémoir of him by Rev. Mr. Temple—Church Covenant written by Mr. Hemenway—Account of Servants (negroes) belonging to the Church—Church Discipline—Owning the Covenant—New Lights—Character of Mr. Hemenway—His Death—Settlement of Rev. Samuel Dix—Account of his Pastorate—Sample of his Eloquence—Action of the Church at the Decease of Rev. Mr. Dix—Ordination of Rev. David Palmer—Character of Mr. Palmer as an Educator—The Unitarian Excitement and Withdrawal of Mr. Palmer from the Town Meeting-house—Account of the Latter Part of his Life—Pastorate of William M. Rogers—Pastorate of Columbus Shumway—Pastorate of David Stowell—Pastorate of Luther H. Sheldon—Pastorate of E. W. Cooke—Pastorate of Moses Patten—Pastorate of George H. Morss—Pastorate of Henry C. Fay—Ordination of Albert F. Newton—Names of the Deacons—The Unitarians and Their Ministers—The Methodists. 77—122.

## CHAPTER IV.

*THE BAPTISTS AND UNIVERSALISTS.*

Formation of the Baptist Society in 1818—Inauguration of the Church in 1827—Levi Ball Chosen Deacon—Action of the Town in Favor of the Baptists—Pastorate of Rev. James Barnaby—Concise Mémoir of Mr. Barnaby—Some Account of the Successors of Mr. Barnaby—Pastorate of Rev. Willard P. Upham—The Universalist Restoration Society—Rev. John Pierce—Committee to Build a Meeting-house—Mention of the Several Pastors of this Society. 123—132.

## CHAPTER V.

*MEETING-HOUSES.*

The First Meeting-house and its Location—"Pew Ground"—"Seating the Meeting-house"—Controversy about the Location of the Second Meeting-house—Memoirs of John Hale, Oliver Prescott and John Dunsmoor, the Committee Chosen to Locate this House





—Names of the Pew Holders in the Second Meeting-house—  
Action of the Town in Regard to Moving the Second Meeting-  
house to its Present Location at the Central Village—The First  
Bell in Town—The Congregational Meeting-house—The Baptist  
Meeting-house. 133—153.

## CHAPTER VI.

### *MILITARY, CEMETERIES, AND BEQUESTS.*

“The Training Band”—“The Alarm List”—Division of the Town into  
Two Military Companies—The North Company—The South  
Company—List of the Captains of these Companies—Townsend  
Light Infantry—Its Captains—Cemeteries—Land Given by Wil-  
liam Clark—Burying Ground Near the Common at the Centre  
of the Town—Its Enlargement in 1854—Gift of Land for a Ceme-  
tery at West Townsend by Levi Warren—The Stocks, an Instru-  
ment of Torture to the Flesh—Amos Whitney’s Will—His Epi-  
taph. 154—168.

## CHAPTER VII.

### *WAR OF THE REVOLUTION.*

Excitement Preyious to the War—A Pamphlet Received from the  
Selectmen of Boston—Committee of Correspondence and Safety  
—Action of the Town in 1773—Action of the Town in 1774—  
Delegates to the Provincial Congress—Assistance Rendered by  
Townsend to the Citizens of Boston During its Seige—Efforts  
to Obtain Salt—The Alarm on the 19th of April, 1775—Roll of  
Capt. James Hosley’s Company of Minute-Men that Marched to  
Defend the Colony—Roll of Capt. Samuel Douglas’ Company—  
Roll of Capt. Henry Farwell’s Company—Capt. Thomas Warren’s  
Company—Attempt to Regulate the Prices of Goods and Labor—  
The Tories of Townsend—Letter from Boston Concerning the  
Return of the Absentees—Privations and Struggles for Indepen-  
dence—Story of Eunice Locke—Some Account of Her and Her  
Brother—Roll of Capt. James Hosley’s Company of Volunteers  
from Townsend, Pepperell, and Ashby, which Went to the Assis-  
tance of Gen. Gates in 1777—Adoption of the State Constitu-  
tion, 1778—Depreciation of the Continental Money—Names of  
the Townsend Soldiers in 1780—List of Prices—Retrospective.  
169—212.



## CHAPTER VIII.

*THE SHAYS REBELLION.*

Causes which Led to the Revolt—Mob at Springfield—Excitement in Worcester County—The People of Concord in Fear of the Insurgents—Letter from Concord to the Neighboring Towns—Town Meetings and Committees at this Time—Job Shattuck and his Subalterns—Stopping the Courts—Capture of Shattuck—List of the Shays Men Belonging to Townsend—Peter Butterfield—Luke Day the Leading Spirit of the Insurrection—Daniel Shays. 213—222.

## CHAPTER IX.

*EDUCATIONAL HISTORY.*

Early Action of the Town to Preserve the "Candlewood"—Home Instruction in the Log-Cabins—First Record of Any Effort to Establish a Public School—First School-House—Account of Several of the School-Houses—Division of the Town into "Nine Squadrons" in 1783—First School Committee in 1796—West Townsend Female Seminary—Townsend Academy—General Interest in Education—Names of Some Prominent Teachers—Sketch of Hon. Seth Davis. 223—240.

## CHAPTER X.

*MILLS AND MANUFACTURES.*

First Mill in Town at the Harbor, 1733—"Hubbard's Mill" at West Townsend—Hezekiah Richardson's Mill and the Variety of Business at that Place—James Giles' Mill—Eben Butler's Mill—Daniel Giles' Mill, afterwards Owned by Adams & Powers—Steam Mill of Giles & Larkin—Steam Mill of Walter Fessenden & Son—Sketch of Walter Fessenden—The Work done by these Mills—Morocco Factory of Abram S. French—Sketch of Abram S. French—Clothiers and Wool Carders—Hezekiah Richardson and his Sons—Samuel Whitney, the Inventor of the Planer—Peter Manning, the Saddler—Townsend Harbor in 1790—The Tanning Business Carried on by Several Parties—Hats Made of Fur, and Palm Leaf Hats—Foundry at the Harbor—Statistics of the Manufactures of Townsend, for 1875, taken from the Decennial Census. 241—258.



## CHAPTER XI.

*WAR OF THE REBELLION.*

Rabidness of the Politicians Previous to the Rebellion—Stupendous Effort of Massachusetts in Suppressing It—War a Terrible Agent in Civilization—Call for a Town Meeting, April 20th, 1861—Patriotic Resolves of the Town—Names of the Men who Enlisted in June, 1861, and were Mustered into the Sixth Massachusetts Volunteers—Men of the Twenty-Sixth Massachusetts Regiment—Account of the Thirty-Third Regiment, and the Townsend men in the same—Re-enlistment of the Nine Months Men in the Old Sixth Regiment, in August, 1862—The Fifty-Third Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers for Nine Months—Sketch of Capt. Anson D. Fessenden—Names and Terms of Service of Townsend Men in Various Regiments—Roll of Townsend Men Belonging to the Twenty-Fourth Massachusetts Heavy Artillery—Roll of the One Hundred Days Men who Enlisted July 7, 1864—Patriotism of our Young Men, and the Number of them Killed and who Lost their Lives—Aid Afforded by the Ladies of Townsend to the Sanitary Commission. 259—284.

## CHAPTER XII.

*LAWYERS, PHYSICIANS, AND COLLEGE GRADUATES.*

LAWYERS: Walter Hastings—Aaron Keyes—Frederick A. Worcester. PHYSICIANS: Joseph Adams—Samuel Hosley—Isaac Mullikin—Samuel Lovejoy—Moses Kidder—John Bertram—Ebenezer P. Hills—Augustus G. Stickney—John Heard—Royal B. Boynton—Charles J. Towne. COLLEGE GRADUATES: John Hubbard—Abraham Butterfield—Daniel Adams—Joseph Walker—William Farmer—John Stevens—Joel Giles—John Graham—John Gilles—Charles Brooks—Warren Brooks—Mark Davis—Charles T. Haynes—John M. Proctor—Randall Spaulding—Eliel S. Ball—Wayland Spaulding. 285—320.





## CHAPTER XIII.

*PROMINENT INDIVIDUALS.*

Samuel Stone—Ralph Warren—James N. Tucker—James Hosley  
—Walter Hastings—John Spaulding—Levi Wallace—Stillman  
Haynes—The Warrens. 321—339.

## CHAPTER XIV.

*MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS.*

Town Library and its Origin—Fire Department—Odd Fellows—Sketch  
of Albert L. Fessenden—Townsend National Bank—The Ladies'  
Benevolent Society of the Orthodox Congregational Church—  
Townsend Cornet Band—Stage Coaches—Post-Offices and Post-  
masters. 340—355.

## CHAPTER XV.

*TOWN OFFICERS.*

Some Remarkable Votes of the Town—Good Sense of the Town  
About Taxes—Names of the Town Clerks, Moderators, Select-  
men, and Representatives, from the Time the Town was Char-  
tered to 1879—Justices of the Peace—County Road Through  
Groton—Deer Reeves—Hog Reeves—Tithing-Men. 356—384.

## CHAPTER XVI.

*MARRIAGES.*

Marriages of Townsend People from the Incorporation of the Town  
to the Present Time. 385—428.

## CHAPTER XVII.

*DESCENDANTS OF DANIEL ADAMS.—THE WHITNEY FAMILY.*

Record of the Descendants of Daniel Adams, who settled in Town-  
send, in 1742—The Whitney Family as Benefactors and Business  
Men—Genealogy of some of the Townsend Whitneys. 429—455.



## ILLUSTRATIONS.

---

	PAGE.
MAP OF THE TOWN.....	13
REV. DAVID PALMER.....	102
REV. LUTHER H. SHELDON.....	110
HON. SETH DAVIS.....	237
HON. WALTER FESSENDEN.....	245
ABRAM S. FRENCH.....	248
ANSON D. FESSENDEN.....	273
FREDERICK A. WORCESTER, Esq.....	288
JOEL GILES, Esq.....	308
ELIEL S. BALL, A. M.....	318
RALPH WARREN.....	326
JAMES N. TUCKER, Esq.....	328
WALTER HASTINGS.....	331
HON. JOHN SPAULDING.....	332
HON. LEVI WALLACE.....	334
STILLMAN HAYNES, Esq.....	336
LEVI WARREN.....	338
ALBERT L. FESSENDEN.....	344
ALFRED M. ADAMS.....	440









## CHAPTER I.

### *PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE TOWN.*

Hills—Streams and Brooks—Ash Swamp—Wild Animals—Fishes—  
Birds—Name of the Town—Population.

The town of Townsend is situated in the northwest angle of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, in latitude  $42^{\circ} 38'$  north, and longitude  $71^{\circ} 43'$  west. It is on the northern margin of the State, adjoining New Hampshire, is forty miles northwesterly from Boston, and fifty-six miles southerly from Concord, New Hampshire.

In 1792, the selectmen of Townsend, in company with the selectmen of the seven adjoining towns, each in their turn, caused an accurate survey of the town and a plan thereof to be made. The several boundaries of the town, since that date, have remained unaltered in the least particular. By that survey it is bounded, as follows:—  
"Beginning at the northeast corner and running south  $4^{\circ}$  west on Pepperell line 300 rods to Groton old corner; thence south  $14^{\circ}$  west on Pepperell line 880 rods to the northwest corner of Groton; thence south  $14^{\circ}$  west, on Groton line 270 rods to the northwest corner of Shirley; thence south  $14^{\circ}$  west on Shirley line 500 rods to the northeast corner of Lunenburg; thence north  $62\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  west



1880 rods to the northwest corner of Lunenburg, in the east line of Ashby; thence north  $9^{\circ}$  east by Ashby line 1360 rods to the northeast corner of Ashby; thence south  $82\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  east by the State line and Mason south line 1106 rods to the southeast corner of Mason; thence by the State line and the south line of Brookline 760 rods to the point of beginning; and contains by estimation 19,271 acres."

The town contains a trifle more than five and one-half miles square, or thirty and one-ninth square miles.

The surface, except that portion near the river, is highly diversified with hills and valleys. On the banks of the Squanicook, through the entire length of the town, there are areas of level, sandy plains. Some of these, that are only slightly elevated above the natural surface of the river, are fertile and afford good remuneration to the husbandman for his toil.

The rocks are ferruginous gneiss, Merrimack schist and St. Johns group. There are ledges of gneiss, that afford large quantities of stone for building purposes. Some of them can be split and worked to good advantage; and only the small portion of iron, which is one of their constituent parts, prevents a much more extensive use of them. On the east side of the Nissequassick Hill, a vein of plumbago crops out, which has never been investigated and nothing is known in regard to its quality or value. On the hills are a few large boulders, some of which at a certain period were travellers by iceberg, the most conspicuous of which is situated on the west side of the Lunenburg road, on the summit of Bayberry Hill.

The borders of the town, except at the southeastern part are hilly. The principal hills are Nissequassick Hill, West Hill, Barker Hill, Battery Hill and Bayberry Hill.



"NISSEQUASSICK HILL" embraces the northeastern part of the town from the Harbor to the State line, the northern slope extending into New Hampshire. Since the settlement of the town, this hill has been more densely populated than any other portion thereof except the villages. It contains some rough ledges and broken crags on its eastern brow, except which, it has few ravines or abrupt elevations; and its soil, although some rocky, is generally fit for the plow.

It is a graceful elevation and has many stand points commanding views of scenic beauty. Many charming prospects, worthy of an ascent to behold, may be seen from its summit. The Monadnock, the Watatic, the Wachusett and the bold elevations at the north, including Jo English Hill, together with the mountains of New Ipswich, Peterborough and Lyndeborough in New Hampshire, are distinctly visible and stand out in bold relief, resembling turrets in the sky belonging to the walls of some ethereal world. The farm-buildings situated on the summit of this hill are in plain sight of several towns at the west and northwest.

WEST HILL, situated west and nearly opposite the hill just described, of about the same elevation, lies also in the northern part of the town, extending further into New Hampshire. It, however, does not take up so much of the territory of the town; neither is it so well adapted to cultivation as Nissequassick Hill. It contains ledgy, waste lands, in which are wild ravines and swamps caused by rocky barriers, which impede the natural course of the rivulets. Two or three farms on its summit constitute all the soil on this hill suitable for cultivation; and most of the





land is covered with a growth of forest trees of different sizes and ages, for which purpose it is best adapted. Closing up to this hill on the west comes:—

**BARKER HILL**, sometimes called "**WALKER HILL**," it being at one time the place of residence of Deacon Samuel Walker. The eastern brow of this hill contains some good soil, on which are two or three well cultivated farms. The balance of its territory is very rough and ledgy, being the largest tract of uninhabited land in Townsend.

It is difficult to reach its summit, with a team, from the west. Just before the present lull in business, the high price of lumber caused the removal of the original growth from one hundred acres near its highest point, at the price of ten thousand dollars. Many proud and stately conifers, which withstood the wintry winds of more than a century, yielded to the woodman's axe, falling to the rock bound surface with a crash like a clap of "live thunder." Thus disappeared about the last remnant of the "old growth" in Townsend. It is covered mostly like West Hill with a young growth of timber.

**BATTERY HILL** is a name applied to a part of an unbroken spur of the Turkey Hills, which extends from Pearl Hill in Fitchburg, north to New Ipswich, New Hampshire, bordering the whole western line of the town. The name was applied to that part of this range over which passes the old road from West Townsend to Ashby, extending perhaps a mile both north and south of this thoroughfare. It was so called from a garrison-house, which stood near its base, on or in which a cannon was



placed by the settlers to give an alarm in case of the incursions of Indians.

A few farms on this hill, at the west and northwest of Ash Swamp, are of excellent quality, the soil containing just enough argillaceous matter to prevent the cultivated fields from being washed by the heavy rains, and to hold moisture during the drouths of summer.

BAYBERRY HILL in the southwest part of the town has nearly half its territory in Lunenburg. On the north and west sides of this hill its ascent is quite steep and the approaches to its summit are somewhat difficult. Several hundred acres on its top are comparatively level. The farms here are rocky, and the land is cold and backward in the spring. Some of our best peach orchards, which are a source of much pecuniary profit to their owners, are on this hill. Their northern exposure keeps the buds from too early a start in the spring, thereby preventing injury from late frosts. There is a point on the summit of this hill from which a prospect of panoramic beauty may be seen in the distance, having the three villages of Townsend in the foreground, situated about equidistant in an elongated basin, widening from the northwest to the southeast and shut in by these hills, dotted with white dwellings, pastures, fields and forests.

ASH SWAMP is a large tract of land, situated at the eastern base of Battery Hill, containing about three hundred acres. Nearly half of this territory has produced grass naturally, from time immemorial. The land in this swamp, from the settlement of the town to the present time, has been coveted and owned by many persons, in



quantities varying from two to four acres. The fodder for a stock of cattle during the winter was considered by the farmers as incomplete without a ton or more of Ash Swamp hay.

Mr. Hill in his history of Mason (page 60), in order to show how carelessly records were made by the New England town clerks in the days of yore, very properly quotes from the Townsend records of 1737, the laying out of a road as a case in point. Ash Swamp was the objective point "where Horsley and Wallis and Brown and Wyman and Woodbury goeth along for their hay."

"Little Goose Pond" is situated on the old turnpike, just east of where the Potunk school-house stood. At present, the pond is much smaller than it was at the time this record was made, it having been partially drained. There is a drive-way through the edge of this pond from the turnpike, for the purpose of watering animals. The pond around its edges is at present grown up with flags, reeds and brush. "The Hither Goose Pond" is the small pond located nearly a quarter of a mile east of Little Goose Pond, sometimes called Davis Pond.

"Rackkoon Brook" drains in part the southern slope of West Hill, crossing the road a few rods at the west of the house of the widow of the late Adams Reed. This road, the laying out of which is quoted by Mr. Hill, started from the southeast corner of Ash Swamp, near the mouth of Pearl Hill Brook (where there was a bridge across the Squanicook), running easterly to a point on the turnpike near where the Potunk school-house stood, thence as the turnpike is now travelled, till it crosses the





road leading eastward from West Townsend; thence by that road, passing near No. 12 school-house, and onward southeasterly over Hathorn's Brook, on the line of the road which terminates near the old burying ground.

There are many instances in the town records concerning roads and lands, the laying out of which are much more obscure and difficult to locate than the one cited in the history of Mason.

It must be easily inferred that the town surrounded by these hills must be well watered by the rivulets, brooks and streams, which flow down their sides and at their bases, into the principal stream, which occupies the lowest level of its central basin.

The Koran says: "God is one; He has no partner. God is good; He sendeth rain and water from the hills to cheer the waste places and to quench the parching thirst of all that drink."

The SQUANICOOK, running through the town from the northwest to the southeast, drains large areas of land outside of Townsend. It is not very crooked; its general direction, in nautical terms, being nearly southeast by south until it approaches within, perhaps, a mile of the border of the town, where it makes a detour to the right and passes out between the corners of Groton and Shirley, and forms, in its onward course, the boundary between these towns, till it empties its waters into the Nashua. This river and its tributaries have furnished motive power both in and out of town, which has been utilized since 1734, at



more than twenty-five different places. There are highways and bridges crossing it at six different places, commencing at West Townsend and ending at the Harbor:

The principal tributaries to the Squanicook are the following, viz:—

WINSHIP BROOK has its source in the rough meadows at the westward of Mason Centre, where it receives the water from Merriam Hill and the southerly slopes of the hills situated north of that point. It runs to the south, taking the waters of several brooks in its course, till it flows into the northeast corner of Ash Swamp. The Winships, at different times, lived on both sides of this brook; one of the name owning a mill on it; hence the name. During a drouth this brook is dry, but when the snow leaves in the spring, or after a heavy fall of rain, its current seems hurrying along as though fearful of being late in putting in an appearance at the swamp.

The WALKER BROOK comes down by the side of the Greenville road and runs into the northwest corner of Ash Swamp, discharging its water into the Winship Brook, both of which united, constitute the Squanicook at its start, having its source in the southern part of Greenville, New Hampshire, and taking in through its course, waters from the corners of Ashby and New Ipswich.

LOCKE BROOK has its origin among the rough ledges and swamp holes in the south part of New Ipswich, at the north of the Ashby alms-house. It took its name from Hon. John Locke, once a member of Congress from this district, who lived on one of the Ashby farms, through



which it passes. It runs across the northeast angle of Ashby, and down a wild ravine, through which it enters the westerly side of Ash Swamp, penetrating nearly through the same till within a few rods of the Squamcook, where it joins Willards Stream. This brook is fed by rivulets and springs, no brook of any size emptying into it during its whole course.

**WILLARDS STREAM**, probably called for Samuel Willard, who commanded a company of scouts in 1725, which marched northwesterly from Lancaster, Massachusetts, in pursuit of Indians, is the largest tributary of the Squamcook. Its source is a reservoir situated in the southwest part of Ashby. It drains the easterly slope of Blood Hill, a part of which is in Ashburnham. About two-thirds of the area of the town of Ashby is drained by this stream. After it leaves Ashby, south village, where its waters are utilized considerably, its course is easterly. For the distance of half a mile before it reaches the margin of Townsend ~~the~~ tunnel is deeply sunken between the hills, where it rushes onward, down the ravine and over its rocky bed, foaming and howling in its mad career, till impeded in its course by a massive stone dam thrown across the stream, where it partially "waits further orders." Its largest tributary is Trapp Falls Brook, which leaps into it just before it leaves the town of Ashby. It discharges its waters into the river, in the southeasterly part of Ash Swamp.

**PEARL HILL BROOK** has its source from the springs of Pearl Hill, in Fitchburg. Its course is northerly through a valley between a spur of the Turkey Hills and the western slope of Bayberry Hill, in connection with other



highlands adjoining in Lunenburg. This is a favorite brook. It is never dry; and it seldom remains frozen over in the winter for any length of time. There is a drive-way through it from the Ashby road, which is much used for watering horses. This is the fifth and last brook that flows into the river in Ash Swamp, closing in there just below the mouth of Willards Stream.

A brook flowing to the southwest, along the east base of Nissaquassick Hill, near Pepperell line, afterwards receiving the brook from the south side of the same hill, discharges considerable water into the river at the Harbor.

A nameless stream which takes its rise near the Old City, and runs northeasterly into the river between the centre of the town and the Harbor, and WITCH BROOK, which runs across the southeast angle of the town, and empties into the river easterly of Samuel F. Warren's house, together with those already described, are all the tributaries of the Squanicook from this town, the waters of which have been or are at present used for mill purposes.

There are only a few natural ponds in this town, and these are quite small:—

WORDEN POND, a small sheet of clear water, is situated in the west part of the town, near Ashby line. It has no visible outlet; and it has been thought that it has some subterranean connection with Pearl Hill Brook, through which that stream becomes replenished. About 1790, a pond now known as—

"DRAIN POND," situated on the sandy hill northerly of Worden Pond, was carelessly drained "just for fun," by





some hunters, who were basking in the Indian summer sun on its shores. The pond was full to its brim, swollen by the autumnal rains. A few scratches were made through the leaves and dirt from the water to the outer edge, at first causing a little current, which soon widened and widened, till the whole pond ran off with a tremendous roar, carrying fish, sand, and small trees uprooted in its track, a long distance. Since that time, thousands of loads of its mud deposits have been taken from its bed and used in composts for agricultural purposes.

WALKER POND is situated about half-way from West Townsend to the centre of the town, a short distance to the north of the highway. It was purposely drained to its present dimensions, more than one hundred years ago, by the proprietors of the lands around its shores, in order to obtain the soil which laid beneath its waters. Large quantities of mud have been removed from the bed of this pond.

The HARBOR POND is a beautiful sheet of water, which came into existence in 1734, by the dam necessary for the first mill privilege ever improved in this town.

The river, brooks and ponds, of this town, abound with the fish common to this vicinity. In order that the students of natural history of the next century may know what varieties of the finny tribe frequent these waters, at the present time, their names are here given: The brook trout (*salmo fontinalis*); pickerel (*esox reticulatis*); perch (*perca flavescens*); shiner (*stilbe chrisolencas*); bream (*pomotis vulgaris*); chub or dace (*leuciscus cephalus*);



horned pout (*pimelodus catus*); the eel (*anguilla tenuirostris*), and the black sucker (*catostomus*). Worden Pond has many visitors in the winter for pickerel fishing through the ice. When the river is first covered in winter, while the ice presents a clear, vitreous appearance, holes are cut through it, at which two persons are generally stationed with poles having hooks firmly attached. Some of the sportsmen then go up the river on its banks, a considerable distance, and getting upon the ice, commence pounding and stamping to make a noise, which frightens the black sucker. This shy fish will commence running from its enemies, and pass the hole in the ice, where the hooks are let down into the clear water, when they become an easy prey, being snatched up with a dexterous jerk.

Spearing by torchlight was forbidden by an act of the town more than a century ago, but now in spring-time, Jack-o-lanterns may be seen, during the dark evenings, hovering along the banks of the Squamcook. The whole routine of fishing is carried so much to the extreme, that the angler seldom meets with his anticipated "luck."

The wild animals of any New England locality change so much at different periods, that it appears necessary to particularize. When the town was settled, a heavy growth of wood covered its whole area. Pitch pine, elm and maple, constituted the principal growth along the light land bordering on the river, while the hills were thickly covered with white pine, oak, hemlock, black birch, cherry tree, chestnut, and walnut.

Through these forests roamed the bear, wolf and deer, each of which turned its course from the smoke of the log-house of the Puritan. The deer remained longest, from the fact that all the towns on the frontier, at the return of



each annual town meeting, chose officers, whose duties were to protect the deer during their breeding season. These officers were called "deer reeves." The beaver has left marks of his presence, in several places, on some of the small brooks. A tradition has come down that a certain rough swamp in the north part of the town, crossed in part by the Brookline road, was the last place which this cunning animal inhabited while here. To this day, the brook running through this swamp is called "Beaver Hole Brook." The otter (*sutra*), although well adapted to self-preservation, is occasionally taken here in a trap. This animal leaves a peculiar track in the snow, so that when the streams and swamps are covered with ice so that it cannot travel in them in its journeys from pond to pond, it is occasionally overtaken and shot. The mink not having the bump of caution like its "great uncle," the otter, frequently leaves the water courses and makes a raid on the farmers' poultry-yard, once in a while at the expense of its life. Foxes and woodchucks are, perhaps, as numerous here as at any former period, while the raccoon is met less frequently, probably owing to the destruction of most of the heavy forests. The red and striped squirrels are numerous. The grey squirrel is less frequently seen than formerly, while the flying squirrel (*volucella*) is often seen, which is certainly one of the most curious, soft, gentle and beautiful of all living things.

"The Fowls of the Air" found here are not different from those in other places in this latitude. Formerly the wild pigeon was so abundant, that the catching and marketing of these birds took up the time of three or four of our citizens for the season. During the past five or six years scarcely a flock has been seen. Partridges (*bonasa*





*umbellus*) are plenty ; and the three notes in succession of the quail, frequently greet the ear of the husbandman.

The crow is very familiar with the farms and fields throughout the town ; amid the improvements of the times, including the whistle of the locomotives, the ringing of bells, and the sharp crack of the breach-loading rifle, he flaps his wings in the face of commerce, and steals from the corn-fields as adroitly as an office-holding politician. The owl still assumes his wonted gravity, and jealous of "Old Probabilities," he heralds the storm with his three "hoo, hoo, hooas," in notes that reverberate among the hills. The migratory birds, the sweet forest singers of June, and the confiding creatures, which build their nests around the garden walls and near the habitations of man, and wake him to his morning duties, all appear in their season to cheer and gladden the human heart.

At present the arborial productions of the town are principally white pine, pitch pine, three or four kinds of oak, hemlock, maple, two or three kinds of birch, chestnut, walnut, elm, ash and cherry. The probability is that eventually chestnut will become the most valuable timber of any to be found here.

As a farming town, Townsend is inferior to Lunenburg and other towns in Worcester county, but compared with the other joining towns, it is naturally as good, and better than some of them. The farms have been neglected so that agriculture is not a branch of industry of which the people are particularly proud. Too much attention has been given to the coopering business, to the detriment of good cows, cleanly cultivated fields, and well filled barns, yet its inhabitants regard their lines as having "fallen in pleasant places, and that they have a goodly heritage."



The situation of the town is comparatively favorable for genial climatic influences. The first precursor of winter, in earnest, is seen on the powdered crests of the hills at the west and northwest, on the mornings which follow the cold, Thanksgiving rain storms. Snow appears in that direction, occasionally, two or three weeks before its appearance on Townsend soil. Certain changes in the air are noticeable in travelling to the northwest from Boston. In the spring, vegetation at Concord, a little outside of the ocean air, is different from that at the tide-water. Commencing at the hills bordering Townsend on the west, another atmospheric change is noticeable; while at the distance of twenty-five miles further at the northwest, there is considerable difference in the climate. At the same time the extremes of heat and cold are greater on the plains here, than either on our own hills or those at the northwest. The cold waves of air following up the Nashua and Squanicook to the Harbor Pond, cause that village and its surroundings to be the most freezing locality in town. The peach tree flourishes on the hills because the mercury does not often fall to fourteen degrees below zero; while below that point, the cold spoils the bud which contains the embryo of this delicious fruit. The mercury at the Harbor has been known to indicate a temperature of thirty-five degrees below zero.

The provincial governor assumed the responsibility of giving names to towns and counties, which were generally called for one of his intimate friends or some person of rank, or of the nobility. Whenever a charter for a town or "plantation" was granted, by the Assembly, if the Governor did not fill the blank left for its name, when he



signed it, the Secretary of State would name it, frequently deferring to the wishes of the grantees. It appears that Townsend and Harvard were both chartered the same day, and that the Governor selected a name for the former; and that the Secretary named the latter. It will scarcely be questioned that both of these officials showed good taste in their choice of names. The Governor named Townshend in honor of Viscount Charles Townshend, His Majesty's Secretary of War, and his contemporary. The Secretary (a graduate of Harvard University,) chose the name of Harvard, in honor of John Harvard, the man who laid the corner stone of letters in the new world, who had been dead at that time nearly a century, no one knowing the exact spot where his ashes were deposited. After the lapse of nearly another century (1828) the graduates of the university named for him, with filial regard and love for generous deeds, set up an appropriate granite shaft at or near his grave in Charlestown.

His monument is the University which will live as long as there is any enjoyment *in* or remembrance *of* American freedom.

"Charles Townshend, second viscount, an English statesman, born 1676, died 1738. He succeeded to his title at ten years of age, and, soon after taking his seat in the House of Peers, attached to the whigs, to whose principles he remained faithful during his whole career. In 1705, he was appointed one of the commissioners to treat for the union with Scotland, and in 1707, captain of the yeomen of the Queen's guard; and in 1709, in the capacity of ambassador extraordinary to the United Provinces, he concluded the Barrier Treaty, for which he was denounced in the House of Commons in 1712, as an enemy to the



Queen and kingdom. The accession of George I., having brought the whigs into power, he was appointed one of the principal secretaries of state, and took the lead of the administration until the summer of 1716, when, owing to the intrigues of his colleagues in the ministry, Lord Sunderland and Gen. Stanhope, he was dismissed from office. Upon the reconstruction of the Ministry in 1721, he resumed his old position of state, Walpole becoming first Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer. Walpole and Townshend quarrelled, and Townshend resigned his office in 1730 and retired to his seat in Rainham, where he devoted the remainder of his life to rural pursuits. He was a man of ability, though an indifferent speaker, and left office, says Lord Mahon, 'with a most unblemished character, and what is still less common—a most patriotic moderation.' He was somewhat overbearing in manners, and of an impetuous and irascible temper."\*

About 1780, the town clerks and others began to spell Townshend by omitting the *h* and giving it its present orthography. Thence till about 1800, the custom was to spell the word both ways; since which time the correct method of spelling has been abandoned, perhaps, contrary to the principles of good taste or justice.

The first official census of Massachusetts was taken in 1765, when the population of the State was only 238,423, a number not quite equal to two-thirds of the present inhabitants of the city of Boston. The population of the Commonwealth in 1875, according to the decennial census, was

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\* *Encyclopædia Americane.*





1,651,912. At the different periods when the census has been taken this town has had a population as follows :

1765,	598.	1830,	1506.
1776,	821.	1840,	1892.
1790,	993.	1850,	1947.
1800,	1149.	1860,	2005.
1810,	1246.	1865,	2042.
1820,	1482.	1875,	2196.

This table shows a regular gain of inhabitants between each decennial return, the greatest being between 1830 and 1840. Between 1860 and 1865 the population was affected by the rebellion. The objective points of many people belonging to the rural towns of Massachusetts, are the large cities and the west. Of this number of fortune seekers and emigrants, Townsend has furnished its full share from time immemorial.



## CHAPTER II.

### *LAND GRANTS AND ORIGINAL PROPRIETORS.*

Frequent Grants by the Assembly—Hathorn's Farm—Jonathan Danforth—Grant of two Towns on the westerly side of Groton west line—Proceedings of the Committee assembled at Concord to grant out said Townships—Names of the Persons to whom Lots were granted—Some Account of the Disagreement between the Proprietors of Dunstable and the North Town—Report of Samuel Danforth concerning the Condition of the North Town in 1730—Charter of the Town of Townshend—Other Land Grants—Cambridge Grammar School Farm—Groton Gore—Location of the Province Line—Earliest Settlers known—Allotment by the Committee of the Proprietors—Account of some Early Settlers—Warrant for calling the First Legal Meeting—Isaac Spaulding—Customs and Fashions of the Early Settlers—Proceedings at the First Meetings of the Proprietors—Proprietors' Clerks—Moderators of the Meetings of the Proprietors—Influence of Concord Men in the Settlement of the Town.

The incidents attending the settlement and progress of any New England town must be interesting to many people. Those persons who pass their lives at or near the place of their nativity are by nature patriots in the strictest sense. The history of their town, is nothing less than an account of the acts of their ancestors, their struggles with poverty, privation and oppression, under the greatest disadvantages. An eminent English jurist has said, that, "whoever does not look back to his ancestors will never look forward to his posterity." The emigrants from our towns who have made themselves homes on the western prairies, men who are



upholding our flag wherever either commerce or diplomacy has ordered its presence, the tenants of some rude cabin on the Pacific slope, all who have gone out from us and are now actors in the great theatre of merchandise, the sailor on his night watch and the missionary at the consecrated work, *all* ponder on the old birthplace with all-absorbing pleasure as time rolls along. It may be a question whether the lives of the "rude forefathers" who "hewed down the wilderness;" endured all the hardships of a frontier life; planted these colonies and gave to man "Freedom to worship God," are not more entitled to our regard than are the men whose valor in the revolution freed us from tyrants. We must not forget the heroic acts of our people at all times, whether we consider their bravery during the long years of their undivided support of the principles contained in the Declaration of Independence, or the great effort which placed that stupendous army in the field which fought the decisive battles of the rebellion.

For more than half a century after Groton and Dunstable were chartered, all this region at the western borders of these plantations, of which Townsend was a part, remained an unbroken wilderness. The most accessible lands on the coast of the province and along the fertile banks of the rivers were eagerly sought for by the puritans, while the rough and unpromising hills were unchosen and unoccupied by human beings. Even the Indians had no permanent abode in this vicinity nearer than Lancaster. The barbarities of the savages in murdering the inhabitants and burning some of the earliest settled towns during the Indian wars caused these pioneers to keep within easy distance of their garrison houses and prevented the spreading of the population. The territory





of some of the oldest towns was purchased of the Indians for a few pounds of tobacco, some woollen blankets and a handful of worthless trinkets. The red man laid no claim to lands in Townsend.

The General Court from 1660 to 1740 was liberal in its land grants with a view to foster the subduing and settlement of the province, in order to increase the number of churches and make room for "the learned orthodox minister." Lands were also granted for military and civil services rendered the government, and particularly for educational purposes. As early as 1660, a tract of one thousand acres situated on the Souhegan river in the extreme northwest corner of Milford, New Hampshire, was granted to the town of Charlestown, for a "School Farm." The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, of Boston, had a grant of one thousand acres of land which is now that part of the city of Nashua, New Hampshire, just north of its central bridge and the factories. "Boardman's Farm lying near the centre of Lunenburg," a tract of six hundred and forty acres, was another of these grants.

The first paper title to any land in Townsend was made on the sixth day of September, 1676, which conveyed to William Hathorn a mile square.

From the printed records of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, September 6, 1676, volume 5, page 104 :—

Copy of a grant to William Hathorn, known in the proprietors' records as "Hathorn's Farm," which is a part of Townsend.

Layd out to the Wor<sup>sp</sup><sup>th</sup> William Hathorn Esq. six hundred and forty acres of land, more or less, lying in the



Wilderness on the north of Groton river at a place called by the Indians Wistequassuck,\* on the west side of sayd hill.

It begins at a great hemlock tree standing on the west side of the sayd hill marked with II. and runns north and by east† three hundred and twenty pole to a maple tree marked w<sup>th</sup> II; from thence it runns West and by north three hundred and twenty pole to a stake and stones; from thence it runns south & by west three hundred and twenty pole to a great pine in a little swamp marked w<sup>th</sup> II; from thence it runns east & by south to the first hemlock.

All the lynes are ryne & the trees are well marked. It containes a mill square and is lajd exactly square, as may be easily demonstrated by y<sup>e</sup> platform inserted vnderneath & is on file.

JONATHAN DANFORTH, Survejo<sup>r</sup>.

The court allows & approves of this retorne so it interferes not w<sup>th</sup> former grants.

This William Hawthorn (sometimes spelled Hathorn, Hawthorn, etc.,) lived in the town of Salem and was a prominent man. He was a delegate to the Great and General Court several times and was Speaker in 1661. The town of Salem in 1661 "voted that £10 shall be paid to Major William Hathorn the ensuing year, for training the foot company." This land was granted him for some "extra service" done in the interest of the Province.

\*The word Wistequassuck in the Indian language signifies the *two pines*, or the place of the two pines. The orthography of the word is different in different records. It was generally spelled Nissequassick. It will be observed from reading the grant that the name was applied to a particular locality and not to the whole town. The summit of this hill is visible at a great distance from the southwest, west, north and northeast. Probably there were two extraordinary pines on this hill, which served the aborigines as landmarks in their journeys from Lancaster and other places to their fishing grounds at the confluence of the Nashua and Merrimack. Coos, the name of a county in New Hampshire, signifies in the Indian language *the pines*—Cohasset, *the pine place*.

† Surveyed by a mariner's compass.



The great hemlock which was the southeast corner of this grant must have stood at or near the house where the widow Benjamin Wallace now lives, the east line of the grant being at or near the west line of the road leading northerly from that place. The northeast corner of the same was at the distance of a mile from this point, northerly, on the west side of said road, the grant running a mile westerly from these two corners. The great pine at the southwest corner probably was a short distance northerly from the old burying ground. This location was undoubtedly selected by Hathorn's agent on account of the large amount of meadow or swale land\* embraced within its limits. The people of those times had a large portion of their personal estates in horned cattle and sheep, and consequently the eligibility of these lands that naturally produced grass. Nearly all the meadow land in that vicinity was within Hathorn's mile square, and many deeds and records describe this tract as Hathorn's meadow, and the brook draining the same as Hathorn's brook. 1969356

It appears that Major Hathorn was one of the most noted men of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, and that he had more than a military popularity from the fact that he was sent to the mother country to represent the interest of the colony. That his services were appreciated is apparent from the fact, that, in 1658, by a resolution of the Great and General Court, Block Island was "granted to J. Endicott, R. Bellinghem, D. Dennisson and Major William Hathorn for services to this country."† It is worthy

\*There be likewise in divers places, great broad meadows, wherein grow neither shrub nor tree, but as much grass as may be thrown out with a scythe, thick and long.—Wood's History of New England.

† Massachusetts Archives, vol. 15, page 70.



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of notice that the title and christian names of all these grantees, except Hathorn's, are omitted in this grant, while the ex-governors, one of whom probably made a draft of the resolution, are simply designated by the initial to their christian names.

We almost see Danforth, who, two hundred years ago, then in the full vigor of manhood, taking his way from Groton, on horseback, with a servant and chainmen, prepared to fix the bounds of this grant. How keenly he scans the surroundings. The extent of one of the greatest meadows in this town, with its waving grass, all falls under his eye. Notice the firm step, the determined demeanor as he ascends the hill to the "great hemlock marked" with the first steel ever held in the hands of a white man on that hill. From that stand-point see him peering through the trunks of the great forest trees, on that beautiful September morning to catch the outlines of the Watatic and neighboring summits. How exciting every prospect. All is buoyant. "This goodly land is a part of my country, a jewel in the crown of his most gracious Majesty." Alas, proud Englishman, *one* hundred years hence your King will loose these provinces, and when *two* hundred years shall have passed away, the men of your native kingdom in company with youth and beauty, bringing the costly fabrics of a great nation, will cross the ocean to assist in celebrating the centennary of a generation of men, which "acknowledged no man master."

The following description of Jonathan Danforth was taken from a note by John Farmer, the distinguished antiquarian.





"Capt. Jonathan Danforth was born in Framingham, in the County of Suffolk, in England, 29 February, 1627, and probably emigrated to this country when young. His family connections were highly respectable. From an original letter of Governor Belcher in my possession, to a son of Mr. Danforth it appears that his family was related to the Governor. When the settlement of Shawshin (Billerica) commenced Mr. Danforth was among the first settlers. He was chosen one of the first selectmen, and continued in that office twenty-one years. The records were made by him for about twenty years. He was elected the first deputy to the general court from this town on record. From his eminence in surveying, he was frequently employed in locating new towns and settlements in the Provinces of New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The plans of his surveys were very numerous. There still remain a large number of them. While Mr. Danforth was justly celebrated for his eminence and distinction in mathematical knowledge, by a cotemporary, the most important part of his character is not concealed from view. His piety gave him the lustre which was *most admired*. A poem on his death, supposed to have been written by his nephew Rev. John Danforth, of Dorchester, is still extant. The following extract, which I received verbally from Samuel Whiting, Esq., is all I have been able to obtain of it:—

"He rode the circuit, chained great towns and farms  
To good behavior; and by well marked stations,  
He fixed their bounds for many generations.  
His art ne'er fail'd him, though the load stone fail'd  
When of by mines and *streams* it was assail'd;  
All this is charming, but ther's something higher  
Gave him the lustre which we most admire.



"Then followed an account of his piety, etc., which are celebrated by the poet in the versification peculiar to that period."

There is nothing of further interest to the town from 1676 to 1719. Perhaps the "Native Americans" carefully examined the letter H cut in the great trees to mark Hathorn's corners, as they crossed here on the war path, but the deep silence of the wilderness remained unbroken by the sound of the emigrant's axe for more than forty years.

The foundation of our municipal rights, and all the titles to the real estate in Townsend (except Hathorn's farm) rest on the following grant from the General Court in 1719, which was forty-three years after Danforth made the survey and plan for the mile square on Nissequassick hill. On account of the importance of this document, it is here presented to the reader, to show some of the views of the puritans in regard to their worldly wisdom and their judgment concerning education and religion :—

"Anno Regni Regis Georgii Magnæ Britanniæ, &c. Sexto.

"At a great and General Court or Assembly for his Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, begun and held in Boston, upon Wednesday, the twenty-seventh of May, 1719, and continued by Prorogation to Wednesday, the fourth of November, 1719, and then met; being their second session.

"MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1719.

"In the house of Representatives, the vote for granting two new towns was brought down from the board, with



Amendments, which were read and agreed to—And the said vote is as follows, viz :—

“Voted that two new Towns, each containing a Quantity of land not exceeding six miles square, be laid out in as regular Forms, as the Land will allow; to be settled in a defensible manner, on the Westerly side of Groton West line, and that William Taylor, Samuel Thaxter, Francis Fulham, Esqrs., Capt. John Shipley, and Mr. Benjamin Whittamore, be a Committee fully impowered to allot and grant out the land contained in each of the said towns, (a lot not to exceed Two hundred and fifty acres) to such persons, and only such as will effectually settle the same within the space of three years next ensuing the laying out and granting such lots by the Committee, who are instructed and directed to admit eighty families or persons in each Town at least, who shall pay to the said Committee for the use of the Province, the sum of Five Pounds for each allotment, which shall be granted and allotted as aforesaid; and that each person to whom such lot or lots shall be granted or laid out, shall be obliged to build a good Dwelling House thereon and inhabit it; and also to break up and fence in three acres of land at the least within the Term of three years; and that there be laid out and reserved for the first settled Minister, a good convenient Lot; also, a Lot for the School, and a ministerial lot, and a lot for Harvard College, of two hundred and fifty acres each, and that the Settlers be obliged to build a good, convenient House for the Worship of God in each of the said Towns. within the term of four years; and to pay the charge of necessary surveys, and the Committee for their service in and about the premises; and that the Committee give public notice of the time and place when and where they will meet to grant allotments.

Consented to—

SAML. SHUTE.”





The portion of "country land" taken to form these two towns was known to the people of the province as Turkey Hills; referring particularly to the hills situated in the south, southwest and west part of these townships. The committee appointed to allot and grant these two townships designated them as North Town and South Town. From 1719 to 1732 all references to the territory which is now known as Townsend designate it as "the North Town; Lunenburg of course being the South Town.

The Harvard College library contains the original manuscript record of the proceedings of the committee appointed by the Great and General Court to allot and grant the land in these two townships. Through the courtesy of John Langdon Sibley, who while in office was one of the few men in New England who possessed *all* the learning and experience necessary for a librarian, the writer has had access to this manuscript, from which, that part relating to the North Town is here inserted in full. This manuscript, nearly a century and a half old, is exceedingly interesting:—

"CONCORD May y<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1720

"The Com<sup>tee</sup> appointed & fully Impowered by y<sup>e</sup> Great & Gen<sup>l</sup> Court or Assembly of His Majesties Province of y<sup>e</sup> Massachusetts Bay in New England at their Session on y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> of Dec. 1719 To Allot & Grant out y<sup>e</sup> Lands contained in Each of y<sup>e</sup> Two Townships Last Granted by y<sup>e</sup> Court Each Containing the quantity of Six Miles Squar Lying of, & contiguous to the Town of Groton &c. (After public Notice Given)

Meet at Concord in y<sup>e</sup> County of Midd<sup>s</sup> on Wednesday y<sup>e</sup> Eleventh of May 1720 at y<sup>e</sup> house of Mr. Jon<sup>th</sup> Hoberd, In order to Grant out S<sup>d</sup> Town-



ships, Agreeable to y<sup>e</sup> Order and Direction of y<sup>e</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Court (The whole of s<sup>d</sup> Com<sup>tee</sup> viz W<sup>m</sup> Tailer & Samuel Thaxter Esq<sup>rs</sup>, Capt. John Shipley Mr. Benja. Whittemore And Fra. Fullam Pe fent) and accordingly Proceeded to Grant out f<sup>d</sup> Land to y<sup>e</sup> Pefons whose Names are under written on y<sup>e</sup> other Sides, on y<sup>e</sup> Following Conditions & Provisions &c. Not otherwise.

"1<sup>st</sup> That Each and Every p e fon to Whome a Lot is or Shall be granted (No Allotment To Exceed y<sup>e</sup> quantity of 250) shall be at y<sup>e</sup> Entering his Name with y<sup>e</sup> Com<sup>tee</sup> To Pay Down y<sup>e</sup> Sum of Fifty Shillings\* in part, and at the Drawing of His Lott, or when the same is Laid out y<sup>e</sup> Sum of Fifty Shillings more in full of y<sup>e</sup> Five Pounds for y<sup>e</sup> use of y<sup>e</sup> Province. And if any Pefon who enters his Name & Pays y<sup>e</sup> First Fifty Shillings shall Neglect or refuse to pay y<sup>e</sup> Last Fifty to Compleat y<sup>e</sup> five Pounds as ordered by y<sup>e</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Court When his Lott is Laid out and Redy for Draft, Every such pefon shall Forfit his first Payment and y<sup>e</sup> Lott be Free to be granted to any other proper pefon as y<sup>e</sup> Com<sup>tee</sup> Shall See Meet.

"2<sup>dly</sup> That Every Pefon to Whom Any Lott is or shall be granted Shall be and is Hereby Obligated to to Build a good Dwelling House On his s<sup>d</sup> Allotment & also break up & Sufficiently fence in thre acres of Land at y<sup>e</sup> Least Within y<sup>e</sup> Term of Three Years after y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Lotts are Laid out & Drawn. And so also pay & Do Each of their full

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\* Each man paid one hundred shillings (old tenor) for his one-eightieth part of Townsend, which was about \$2.22, reduced to Federal money. The province received according to this \$177.60 for the township of Townsend. "As many people of the present day, would probably find it difficult to determine the difference between 'Old Tenor' and 'Lawful Money,' it may be stated here that in the year 1702, recourse was had in the provinces to a paper currency, to support the expenses of government, and furnish a substitute for coin as a circulating medium. The bills purported that they would be redeemed at a certain time, which was done at first, but it soon became customary to redeem them by new emissions. This being done pretty liberally, they began to depreciate in value. In Massachusetts where their value was kept up better than in the other provinces, the depreciation was at the rate of *seven and a half for one* in specie. This required the name of *Old Tenor*—seven shillings and sixpence being equal to one shilling in silver, which was called 'Lawful money' or ninepence sterling of Great Britain."



Proportions Towards y<sup>e</sup> building & Finishing a convenient House for y<sup>e</sup> Public Worship of God in Such Town Where his Lot shall Fall, s<sup>d</sup> House To be Finished in four Years according to y<sup>e</sup> Order of Court, and Do also pay the Necessary Charge of y<sup>e</sup> Surveys and y<sup>e</sup> Com<sup>tee</sup> for Their Service in & about y<sup>e</sup> P mises.

"3<sup>dly</sup> That Every Grantee to Whom to Whom a Lott is or may be Granted Shall be & is Enjoyed Effectually to Settle & Inhabit the Same in his Own prop<sup>r</sup> p<sup>e</sup> son and Not have Liberty In Any Way whatsoever to Sell or Alienate or any Ways Dispose of his Interest or Allotm<sup>t</sup> in Either of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Towns to any p<sup>e</sup> son What So Ever Until y<sup>e</sup> Whole conditions Enjoyed by y<sup>e</sup> General Court be Fully complied with & Pe formed Without the Leave and Approbation of y<sup>e</sup> Com<sup>tee</sup> or the Majer part of Them. Nor to any p<sup>e</sup> son or p<sup>e</sup> sons but Such as they Shall approve & to be Accepted by y<sup>e</sup> Com<sup>tee</sup>."

## NORTH TOWN.

		£ s. d.
1 John Holden	of Concord	2.10.00
2 Henry Jones	" Concord	5.00.00
3 Sam <sup>l</sup> Biglo	" Marlborough	3.00.00
4 Thom <sup>s</sup> Ball	" Concord	2.10.00
5 Sam <sup>el</sup> Blond for his son	" Concord	3.00.00
6 John Jests	" Bilrica	2.09.06
7 Jon <sup>th</sup> Forbush	" Sutton	2.10.00
8 Sam <sup>el</sup> Grove	" Westford	2.10.00
9 Jam <sup>s</sup> Farly	" Bilrica	2.10.00.
10 John Holden for his son	" Concord	2.10.00
11 Jon <sup>th</sup> Whitney for his Son	" Sudbury	2.10.00
12 Bartholomew	" Worcester	2.10.00
13 Thomas Baldwin	" Bilrica	2.10.00
14 Joseph Stevens	" Bilrica	2.10.00
15 Samuel Sheldon	" Bilrica	2.10.00
16 John Hayward	" Concord	2.16.00



			£ s. d.
17	Solomon Wyman	of Wooburn	2.10.00
18	Thomas Wyman	" Wooburn	2.10.00
19	Edw <sup>d</sup> Wyman	" Wooburn	2.10.00
20	Edward White	" Woburn	2.08.00
21	Sam <sup>l</sup> Jones for his son	" Concord	2.10.00
22	Jam <sup>s</sup> Bubbeen	" Woburn	2.10.00
23	Benj Wyman	" Woburn	2.10.00
24	John Simonds	" Woburn	2.10.00
25	Jasher Wyman	" Woburn	2.10.00
26	John Wyman	" Woburn	2.10.00
27	John Lawrence	" Lexington	2.10.00
28	Sam <sup>l</sup> Proctor	" Chelmsford	2.10.00
29	Timothy Adams	" Chelmsford	2.10.00
30	Jon <sup>th</sup> Adams	" Chelmsford	2.09.00
31	Sam <sup>l</sup> Davis	" Chelmsford	2.10.00
32	Eben <sup>r</sup> Tailer	" Dunstable	2.10.00
33	John Fisk	" Groton	2.10.00
34	Thom <sup>s</sup> Woods for his son Josiah	" Groton	2.10.00
35	Jon <sup>th</sup> Shed	" Groton	2.10.00
36	Sam <sup>l</sup> Billings	" Concord	2.10.00
37	Jacob Farrar	" Concord	2.10.00
38	W <sup>m</sup> Wheeler	" Concord	2.10.00
39	Solomon Woods	" Mendon	2.10.00
40	John Colbith	" Stow	2.10.00
41	Nath <sup>l</sup> Smith	" Hadley	2.10.00
42	W <sup>m</sup> Laking	" Groton	2.10.00
43	John Holding	" Groton	2.10.00
44	Joseph Wright	" Concord	2.10.00
45	John Hunt for his servt. Nath <sup>l</sup> Colburn	" Concord	2.10.00
46	Josiah Hale for his son Josiah Hale	" Concord	2.10.00
47	Abra <sup>m</sup> Wood	" Concord	2.10.00
48	James Minot Jun.	" Concord	2.10.00
49	Edward Flint	" Concord	2.10.00
50	John Fox	" Concord	2.10.00





51	John Perlin for his son		£ s. d.
	Joseph Perlin	of Concord	2.10.00
52	Nath <sup>l</sup> Jones for his son		
	Elnathan	" Concord	2.10.00
53	Joseph Fletcher	" Concord	2.10.00
54	Sam <sup>l</sup> Fletcher	" Concord	2.10.00
55	Sam <sup>l</sup> Wright	" Concord	2.10.00
56	Joshua Hutchins	" Concord	2.10.00
57	Benj <sup>a</sup> Barron	" Concord	2.10.00
58	Edward Park	" Newtown	0.00.00
59	Sam <sup>l</sup> Randal Ju <sup>r</sup> .	" Woburn	2.10.00
60	Sam <sup>el</sup> Tenney	" Bradford	2.10.00
61	Timothy Harris	" Rowley	0.00.00
62	Sam <sup>l</sup> Hale	" Bradford	0.00.00
63	Joseph Plympton		2.10.00
64	Mr. William Clark		0.00.00
65	Francis Worsster Pd. to		
	Capt Shipley		2.10.00
66	Finehas Rice	" Sudbury	0.00.00
67	Sam <sup>l</sup> Cory		0.00.00
68	Stephen Richard for his son		
	Joseph		0.00.00
69	Jacob French for W <sup>m</sup> French		0.00.00
70	Sam <sup>l</sup> Merriam for		
	John Farrar		0.00.00
71	Sam <sup>l</sup> Frail	" Salem	0.00.00
72	Caleb Blood		0.00.00
			158.07.00
			£ s. d.

The account of the meetings of these proprietors fully set forth their acts for the years 1720-22 up to June 1723. In May, 1723, the record shows a meeting of these men and that the balance of the five pounds was paid and receipted for. Samuel Jones, of Concord, was the principal surveyor in establishing the line between Groton and North



Town. The cost of surveying this line "including expense of the two committees, surveyor, chainmen and proper assistance," was £22 10s. 10d., or £11 5s. 5d. for each of the new towns which now constitute the towns of Townsend and Lunenburg. The committee in describing their labors, in part say, "We proceeded to the heap of stones on the easterly side of Nissequassick Hill, etc.," which clearly indicates that that corner had been previously considered and was fully established.

Among the names in this proprietary list may be found quite a number of men of considerable importance. Business men, those who were and those who had been members of the General Court, two or three members of the legal profession, three or four land surveyors, and others, of more than ordinary pecuniary means, constituted the first owners of Townsend and its appurtenances. Jacob Farrar and David Melvin were both with Captain Lovewell when he fell in the battle at Pequawkett, about the same time that Chamberlain of the same company, killed the stalwart chief Paugus. Melvin is known in our records as "Lieut. David Melvin," his lands being located in what is now the southerly part of Ashby. He must have been a brave man, coming from the Indian wars, as he did, with a commission. Jacob Farrar's land was on the extreme north end of Nissequassick Hill, near the state line, where his descendants settled; and his posterity, although not numerous, are still among the inhabitants of this and the neighboring towns.

A remarkable degree of shrewdness was exhibited by the committee appointed "to grant out and allot" these two towns. Every grantee was obliged "to settle and inhabit his lot," and did not have liberty "to sell or alienate his



interest therein" until every condition was complied with, without leave of the committee "or the major part of them." So far as conforming to these restrictions, there is nothing to be found showing that they were carried out either in letter or in spirit, for only about one-ninth of the original grantees were ever *bona fide* settlers. The members of this committee and many grantees undoubtedly found it for their interest to abrogate part of these conditions, and made an advance on their five pounds by "putting in substitutes" or selling out. There is not much recorded in regard to what transpired concerning this town between 1723 and 1732. It appears, however, that there was a controversy, between the owners of Dunstable and the proprietors of Townsend, about the line between these towns, which continued a long time. This was the reason that the town of Townsend did not obtain its full charter in 1728, at the same time that the boundaries of Lunenburg were made.

It has a peculiar aspect when two frontier towns, the larger having "fifty householders"\* or about two hundred and fifty people, and the smaller, perhaps fifteen householders or about seventy-five people, the former town containing more than two hundred square miles and the latter working on the promise of having thirty-six square miles, should "indulge" in a wrangle about eighty acres of land. Dunstable at that time extended from its northeast corner, "a great rock," in Londonderry, New Hampshire, southwesterly, diagonally across the town, to the northwest corner of Groton, which is a point in the line between Townsend and Pepperell about a mile (300 rods) south of the northwest corner of Pepperell. Thirteen different towns, joining to and surrounding Nashua, New

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\* Fox's History of Dunstable, page 144.





Hampshire, which is about the centre of the original "plantation" were either taken wholly or partly from the old township of Dunstable, now extinct; of which Townsend is one.

In order that the reader may form a correct idea of the extent of the town of Townsend, when it was chartered in 1732, the following copy of a conveyance, taken from the proprietors' records, page 134, is here inserted. This hill, now called "Tanapas Hill," is situated just at the west of the village of Brookline, New Hampshire, and in that town. A line drawn west  $32\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  north from that hill, would not fall at a great distance south of the cemetery at Mason Centre. It will be noticed that the province line cut off a large portion of Townsend, which fell into the province of New Hampshire:—

"Laid out by the subscribers to Capt. William Lawrence for part of his fourth division lot arising upon that grant in Townshend whereof the House Lot bares Number thirty-five, one hundred and fifty acres of land lying on the easterly part of Massaquatanapass Great Hill, Beginning, at a white oak marked and running north thirty-two degrees East to a stake and stones in the town line, thence turn a square angle and run on the town line East thirty-two south Two Hundred and forty poles to a chestnut tree marked, then turn and run South thirty-two degrees west One hundred and twenty eight poles to a maple in a swamp marked for a corner. Thence turning and run West forty-five north two hundred and forty-eight poles to the white oak where we first begun as described in the plan—Bounded on the north side by the Town line and on all other parts on common Land.

	AMOS WHITNEY	} Committee
pr JOHN STEVENS	DANIEL TAYLOR	
Surveyor	NATH RICHARDSON	

Surveyed March 8 1735."



The extreme southwest angle of old Dunstable, terminated in what is now Brookline, New Hampshire, at or near the east base of what is known in our records as "Great Massapetanapass Hill." A direct line from this point to the northwest corner of Groton, before described (which was also a southwest corner of Dunstable), was, without doubt, the line between Townsend and Dunstable, so that considerable land now in the northeast corner of Townsend was within the limits of Dunstable.

So exciting was this disagreement that it engaged the attention of the General Court, which appointed a committee to survey the line between the two towns and report. The following is from the manuscript records of the General Court for 1730:—

"Samuel Danforth, Esq., from the committee appointed by the General Court to survey the North Town, etc., gave in the following report, viz :

"The committee appointed by the Great and general court on the 26th of Feb. 1730 to take a survey of a line between the North Town in Turkey Hills and Dunstable and to make a report whether the plan of the said North Town encroaches upon the town of Dunstable according to its true and allowed bounds, and what quantity of land it takes off from it, and also to make enquiry how far the grantees of the said North Town have fulfilled the conditions of their grant, and what settlements are there made, Report having (and pursuant to said order) repaired to said North Town (after due notice given to all concerned of the time of our coming) and having carefully surveyed the line aforesaid and fully heard the parties therein, are humbly of the opinion that the before mentioned plan of North Town encroaches upon the town of Dunstable, so as to take off from it four score acres of land, according



to what we apprehend to be the true and allowed bounds to said town. Having also carefully viewed the settlements in said North Town and made inquiries how far the grantees have fulfilled the conditions of their grant, we find that considerable improvements have been made on the lands there, and the greater number of the grantees (besides a convenient house which they have lately erected for the public worship of God) have fulfilled the conditions of their grant by breaking up and fencing their lands, by building convenient dwelling houses on their lots and by residing there.

SAMUEL DANFORTH\*

in the name and by the order of the committee."

This report is important not only in showing which party was wrong, but this is the only record which represents the condition and progress of North Town at that date. Danforth's statement concerning the residence of the proprietors here must be received with some caution and allowance. Similar statements were frequent in those times. The petitioners of the North Town for a charter, in 1732, represented "that the town was completely filled with inhabitants," when probably there were less than two hundred people in town. One of the conditions in land grants was, "Provided it doth not interfere with any former grant." Dunstable received its charter in 1673, or about fifty years before any man except Major Hathorn owned any Townsend soil. The North Town men found their east line bounded on Groton, running north  $17\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  east from Lunenburg corner, less than six miles long, so they "interfered with a former grant" by pushing their northeast corner up into Dunstable, fearing that they would not

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\* Son of Jonathan Danforth, surveyor of Hathorn's Farm.



get their six miles square as promised by the act of 1719. They desired and expected their east line running northerly from Lunenburg northeast corner, to continue "north seventeen and one-half degrees east," after reaching Groton northwest corner, and penetrate the town of Dunsstable in that direction. In 1732, the General Court settled the matter *partly* in the charter for Townsend by dividing the territory claimed by Townsend, between the two towns; but until 1741, when the province line was run, as will be seen by the charter, Townsend had no northeast corner.

"CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF TOWNSHEND.

Passed June 29th 1732.

"Whereas the northerly part of Turkey Hills, so called, is completely filled with inhabitants, and who are now about settling a learned and orthodox minister among them, and have addressed this court that they may be set off a distinct and sep(a)rate town and be vested with all the powers and privileges of a town;

"Be it therefore enacted by his excellency the governor, council and representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,—

"That the northerly part of Turkey Hills, as hereafter bounded and described, be and hereby is set off and constituted a sep(a)rate township by the name of Townshend; the bounds of said township to be as followeth, *vizt*: beginning at a heap of stones at the northwest corner of Lunenburg; so running east thirty-one degrees and an half south, three thousand and fifty rods to a heap of stones in Groton line; then bounded on Groton line, north seventeen degrees and an half east, one thousand four hundred and





forty rods to a heap of stones at Groton north west corner ; from thence running due north, leaving eighty acres out of the plan, to the town of Dunstable ; then running from Dunstable west line on province land, west thirty-one degrees and an half north, two thousand two hundred and forty rods, to a tree marked ; then running south, thirty-six degrees west, to the northwest corner of Lunenburg, where the bounds first began, one thousand nine hundred and twenty rods.

"Provided, That nothing herein contained be construed to affect the rights of the proprietors of the land called Hathorn's farm ; and the inhabitants of the said lands as before described and bounded, be and hereby are vested with the powers, privileges and immunities that the inhabitants of any of the towns of this province are or ought to be vested with.

"Provided, That the said town of Townshend do within the space of two years from the publication of this act, procure and settle a learned orthodox minister of good conversation in said town, and make provision for his comfortable and honorable support.

"In the House of Representatives June 29 1732 ordered that Mr. Joseph Stevens one of the principal inhabitants of the town of Townshend be and hereby is fully impowered to assemble and convene the inhabitants of said town to chose town officers to stand until the anniversary meeting in March next any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sent up for concurrence

J. QUINCY, Speaker.

In council June 30, 1732 Received and concured.

J. WILLARD,

Secretary.

June 30th, 1732, consented to, J. BELCHER."



From this grant it appears that Townsend acquired, in 1732, about fifty-two square miles of land instead of thirty-six miles as contemplated by the act of 1719. Perhaps this liberality is traceable to the fact that some of the members of the General Court were part owners of "the North Town." Its north and south lines were parallel, the north line being some shorter than the south line. "Dunstable west line on the province line" (the southwest corner of that town) was about two and one-half miles further west than a line drawn north from Groton northwest corner, so that the north line of Townsend must have been more than nine miles long, and the south line more than nine miles and one-half. Probably it was the intention of the Assembly that the proprietors of Townsend and Dunstable should agree upon a point for a northeast corner of Townsend, which was to be legalized at a future period. Here is an agreement or obligation of a committee of the Dunstable proprietors in regard to the line between the two towns; copied from the Townsend proprietors' book :—

"We the subscribers a committee for the proprietors of the town of Dunstable do promise and oblige ourselves, in the name and behalf of the Town and proprietors aforesaid unto the committee for the North Town, viz: Joseph Stevens, Joshua Fletcher, Andrew Spaulding, Jonathan Melvin, Timothy Heald, Joseph Willard Esq., and William Lawrence, that if it so happens that the line dividing between North Town and Dunstable, be established by the general court further west than the line already run by North Town, the Town and proprietors shall confirm all such the land by such line to the North Town as an



equivalent for such land or equal quantity into the township of North Town in one mile.

"Witness our hands this twelfth day of Oct. 1731.

ATTEST

JON<sup>A</sup> HUBBARD

HENRY FARWELL

RUTH HUBBARD

JOSEPH BLANCHARD"\*

The men constituting both of these committees were the most prominent proprietors of these old townships. Three of the North Town committee were actual settlers here. Joseph Blanchard was a man of wealth, and extensively interested in land.

Without knowing more about this controversy than can be learned from the Townsend proprietors' records, it is difficult to explain the meaning of the obligation above quoted. The records of the proprietors of old Dunstable during the year 1731 are lost, so that nothing further of interest concerning this matter can be found. Probably this is the interpretation of the document:—

North Town insisted on a boundary line running in the same direction of the Groton west line, north  $17\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  east. Dunstable objected to this infringement on her chartered rights, but for the sake of harmony, agreed that if the dividing line should be drawn by the Assembly "further west" than the line which Townsend persistently asked for, then all the land at the west of the line established

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\* "Joseph Blanchard (born in Dunstable 1705, died 1758) was appointed by mandamus, one of the counsellors of New Hampshire in 1740, and sustained that office till his death. He was distinguished as a land surveyor, and in conjunction with Rev. Samuel Langdon, prepared a map of New Hampshire, which was published in 1761, being inscribed to Hon. Charles Townsend, his Majesty's secretary at war, and one of his privy council."—*Bellmap's Hist. N. H.*, p. 313.





by the General Court, for the distance of *a mile north of Groton northwest corner*, should be given up to the North Town proprietors. In 1748, writs of ejectment were served on Isaac Farrar and Jasher Wyman by which they were dispossessed of lands situated in Brookline, New Hampshire, at the northwest of Groton northwest corner. These two Townsend proprietors were obliged to give up their lands which rightfully belonged to the township of Dunstable.

Among the ancient plans and maps in the office of the Secretary of State, at Boston, is a plan of a tract of land containing one thousand acres, lying for the most part in old Dunstable, in what is now the south part of Brookline and the northwest part of Pepperell, a small angle of which pierced Townsend, granted as "Cambridge grammar school farm." This was in 1734. The plan shows "Massapetanapus Lower stream" and one or two of its tributaries, one from Townsend, its westerly line running five hundred and seventy-five poles on Townsend line. The Dunstable people soon notified the Assembly of this interference with their grant, and the next year the Cambridge school farm, was relocated "on the northerly side of Massapetanapass Great hill," partly in Mason and partly in Brookline. A map of this tract of one thousand acres may be seen in the Secretary's office, at Boston. In 1736, the Assembly "granted to Benjamin Prescott,\* in behalf of the proprietors of Groton for losses of land taken to make adjoining new towns, ten thousand eight hundred acres of land lying on the west side of

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\* Assembly records, vol. 16, page 331.



Dunstable, beginning at Dram Cup Hill, by the Souhegan river, which was the northwest corner of Dunstable, and running south on Dunstable line two thousand one hundred and fifty-two poles to Townsend line, then making an angle and running west  $31\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  north on Townsend line and province land, two thousand and fifty-six poles to a pillar of stones, then turning and running by province land north,  $31\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  east, two thousand and forty poles to Dunstable corner first mentioned." This was surveyed and plan rendered by Jonas Houghton, and is known as "the gore between Townsend and Dunstable." This gore is now the easterly parts of the towns of Mason and Wilton, New Hampshire. Special reservations are in this grant of which the following is parenthetically inserted. "(Excepting the one thousand acres belonging to the Cambridge School Farm and therein included.)"

The running of the province line in 1741 settled many disputes about land titles and certainly "was a great public benefit." New Hampshire received a fresh impetus in civilization by acquiring from Massachusetts twenty-eight new townships besides large tracts of vacant lands intermixed. When this line was determined the politicians of Massachusetts were exceedingly angry and dissatisfied. Dunstable by this new line was severed in two parts about equal, suffering much by having its little village sundered and left in two provinces.

Townsend lost nearly one-third of its territory by this line, but found a northeast corner of the town located considerably south of the point for which it contended. Parts of Brookline, Mason and New Ipswich, in New Hampshire, were then taken from Townsend.

The proprietors of Townsend felt much uneasiness, on



account of the loss of their lands caused by the running of the province line in 1741, which left more than one-fourth of their township in New Hampshire. At two or three different times they petitioned the Assembly for redress on account of their loss. From the proprietors' records is extracted the following:—

"At a meeting of the proprietors of the common and undivided lands in the township of Townsend, legally assembled at the house of Mrs. Sarah Conant, Inn-holder [the house is still standing at the southerly end of the dam at the Harbor] in said Townsend, upon Tuesday the twenty-sixth day of February 1765 at twelve o'clock on said day.

"Colonel James Prescott being chosen Moderator for s<sup>d</sup> meeting.

"1<sup>ly</sup>. Voted to choose a committee of three men to petition the 'Great and General Court of this province for a recompense for lands taken away from the proprietors of Townsend by the late running of the Line of the province of New Hampshire; and that Colonel James Prescott, Capt. Jonas Prescott and Lieut. Josiah Sartell be a committee fully impowered for that purpose."

Soon after, when the General Court assembled, these three men appeared before a committee which reported favorably to their wishes, and at that session of the Assembly it "Granted a township, somewhere at the eastward of the Saco River, six miles square to the Townsend proprietors and others, for military services and other losses and services."\*

A clause in the grant specified that one sixty-fourth

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\* Mass. Archives, vol. 118, page 147.



part of this township was to be appropriated to settle a minister—one sixty-fourth part for the ministry—one sixty-fourth part for the benefit of Harvard College—was to be settled within six years from the date of the grant, and a plan of the town to be returned to the General Court within one year.

"Granted to the town of Townshend		10212 acres
"	"	Tyngs-town 380 "
"	"	Nathaniel Parker 260 "
"	"	John Sheple 286 acres."

and to others whose names are not here quoted.

There is nothing on record to be found showing that either the Townsend proprietors or any of these grantees ever received a dollar from this grant, or that it was ever plotted and a plan returned agreeably to the terms of the charter. The difficulties attending the settlement of a new town—its great distance from the grantees—the revolutionary struggle, all combined, probably were in the way to prevent the proprietors from making this grant available. In May, 1786, the following article was in the town warrant: "To see if the town will choose a committee to take care of the land that is granted them by the General Court in compensation for land cut off by New Hampshire line, or sell the same." A committee was chosen at that town meeting to sell the same, but nothing is further recorded concerning the matter.

The town of Ashby was chartered in 1767. It was taken from the towns of Fitchburg, Ashburnham, and Townsend. About two-thirds of its territory was taken from Townsend. The only alterations in the lines of





Townsend, since it was chartered, were caused by the establishing of the province line, in 1741, and the making of the town of Ashby, in 1767.

The east end of Townsend was surveyed and laid out into two divisions, sometime in 1723 or 1724. For the next three years, four or five of the proprietors from Concord and Woburn were busily engaged in felling the trees and making fields during most of the time, except the winter seasons, which they passed with their friends in these towns. This temporary residence broke the wilderness and prepared the way for a few families.

It is said that the wife of John Pat\* was the first person, of her sex, who settled in the North Town. The town records confirm this tradition, from the fact that the first birth found on record reads as follows: "Jonathan Pat, son of John and Mary Pat born Jan 5 1728." Without much doubt, this son of John and Mary was the first child born in this town. John Pat's log-house was about half a mile easterly from the parsonage house on a road leading to the south end of Nissequassick Hill.

The descendants of this family are, at present, to be found in Framingham, and some of the towns of Worcester County. The wife of Henry Sceva, formerly a citizen of Townsend, was one of this family.

The records of the town of Groton contain the following: "Ebenezer Ball, son of Jeremiah Ball, born in North Town, June 22, 1729." Mr. Ball lived about one-third of a mile northeasterly from the Harbor, at the corner made

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\*This name in the town records is spelled Pat, Patt, Patts, Pett and Petts; the last method is the one now in use. The town clerks in this and the neighboring towns were extremely careless in regard to proper names; Austin was "Astin," Hildreth was "Hildrick," Sawtell was "Sartel," according to the Groton town clerk; in the Mason, N. H., records we find "Alet" for Elliott, and Benjamin Dix, a brother of our Rev. Samuel Dix, is dubbed with the name of "Benjamin Deeks."



by the crossing of the two roads leading over the hill, at the left hand side going towards Pepperell from the Harbor.

There were at first two divisions of land laid out, running northerly from the river, by the line of Groton, across the east end of the town. In 1733, a third division was made which extended nearly two miles west from Groton line. The east end of the house lots abutted on "a six rod way running nearly north and south," or the road now leading over the hill. The west end of the lots of the second division also abutted on this road, which was the longest highway laid out by the proprietors, now in use. Soon after, lands south of the Squanicook, to about the same distance westerly from Groton line, were surveyed and lotted. The proprietors made ample reservations for roads. Almost every deed closed with this sentence: "There is also an allowance for a way whenever the town shall think it necessary." No matter how rugged and precipitous, marshy or ledgy, whether the land included Rattlesnake Hill or the rough peaks in northern Ashby, that ubiquitous "allowance for a way" was sure to be present. The road entering the northeast corner of the town, running nearly south for a short distance, then turning easterly, and running about half-way from the state line to the Harbor, to the point where one road turns towards Pepperell and another westerly, was *the road* between the first and second divisions, then laid out. Very few of these roads contemplated were ever made. A road, to these settlers, was a path between two rows of marked trees, generally "two poles" wide but often "four poles" wide.

No original proprietor, according to the terms of the court's committee, could hold more than two hundred acres in one body, although he had a right to one-eightieth of all



the land in North Town. A lot in these divisions contained about fifty acres. These were called "original house lots." There were more than one hundred lots in these three divisions, and it was determined by lot or chance where each man's lot should be located. Nothing could be more fair than this method. After this drawing, when the fourth and fifth divisions were laid out, the second fifty acres or more would be exchanged by these men with each other, so their lands were more in one body. Sometimes if any proprietor was not present at a drawing or other method of giving each man his share of the "common and undivided lands," a committee composed of men of their number and choice, and sometimes a committee appointed by the General Court, would designate the lot.

At this distance from that period, not much being a matter of record, it cannot be expected that the precise location of the lands and houses of many of the first settlers can be designated; and if it were practicable, from the necessity of the case, any language or description that might be quite intelligible to people now living, would perhaps be obscure and without meaning to those who are to be the future men and women of Townsend. Some of these men are worthy of particular notice.

Jasher Wyman, the clerk of the proprietors for more than twenty years, was a man of more than ordinary ability. His chirography and his phraseology were both excellent. He lived in what is now Brookline, on the east side of the road from Townsend to that town, on the second lot north of the state line. He owned and operated a saw mill there, the first ever in Brookline. When the province line was established, finding himself out of Massachusetts, and taxed to support a minister in "Dunstable west precinct"





(Hollis), although he was strongly attached to his home and neighborhood, he left there and located in the southerly part of the town, on land which he acquired in his original two hundred and fifty acres. He was a man of good judgment and greatly respected.

Capt. John Stevens lived near the brook running from Hathorn's meadow. He came from Groton and had a residence here for a number of years, being an innholder. Some of the regularly called meetings of the proprietors were at his tavern. He was a land surveyor and the owner of the most acres of any person in this vicinity. His estates were in the towns of Mason, Townsend, and Groton. He owned at one time most of the land on both sides of the river, for about a mile from each bank, from the Harbor to Groton line. He was a justice of the peace and had considerable influence in town affairs.

Ephraim Sawtell came from Groton, and his house and land were on the north side of the Harbor pond, his lot extending northerly to Jeremiah Ball's land. He was strictly puritanical in his views and acts. He was moderator at several of the proprietors' meetings.

Timothy Heald lived in the south part of the town, on the road leading from the first bridge above the Harbor pond, near the top of the hill where a traveller first begins to lose sight of the Harbor, going towards "South Row." Tradition informs us that he was not only a noted hunter, but that he was posted on the localities of certain mines, of which every one, besides himself, was entirely ignorant. Nothing further is known of him except that he was in charge of a log-house made in a defensible manner against losses by the incursions of the Indians. One of these castles was located north of the Harbor and overlooking



the same, and another near the meeting-house on the hill, and the same tradition further saith that the log-houses and mill, where the Harbor now stands, and the direct surroundings were called "*the Harbor*," because by signals from these three points in case of the appearance of any "red skins," the settlers could soon reach these places of safety. One other fort, or garrison, as they were called, of the same kind, was located on the southwest side of Ash Swamp, in the west corner of the road leading northerly across said swamp, which intersects with or starts from the main road from Townsend to Ashby.

Joseph Stevens, who was empowered by the act of incorporation to call the first proprietors' meeting was a man of sterling integrity. He lived on the second lot on the road leading from Jeremiah Ball's house (formerly described), northeasterly, at the base of the hill, near Pepperell line. It has been said, that to the extent of about one-eighth, he had Indian blood in him.

John Wallace,\* his brothers, and nephews, were Scotch Irish. They settled on the hill which has had an Indian name in this work, better known as Wallace Hill, at the present day. They were men of great physical strength and endurance. On the arrival of three of these brothers at Boston, some one told them of Townsend and its white oak timber, and advised them to choose this place to locate in. They were coopers, and introduced that branch of industry into this town. This business has, from that time to the present, brought more money into Townsend than all other industries added together. The de-

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\*The land on which John Wallace settled was a part of Hathorn's farm, and he took his deed from one, Thomas Phillips, in 1734. His log-house stood on the west side of "the six rod way, running nearly north and south" (which passed by the east side of Hathorn's mile square), about equidistant from the northeast and southeast corners thereof.



scendants of the Wallaces are still among and of the most respectable people in this and adjoining towns.

William Lawrence, not only had a considerable part of his father's land (John Lawrence, of Lexington,) in North Town, but he bought and owned extensive tracts in the northern part of the town. No one man, except John Stevens, and Daniel Taylor, possessed so many acres. His name appears first in the list of grantees of the town of Mason, New Hampshire, (granted 1749,) where he owned nine of the two hundred farms into which said town was surveyed and allotted. He served on most every important committee appointed by the North Town proprietors. He was born in Groton and always resided there. He was a prominent and popular military man, holding the office of Colonel in the Militia for a number of years. In civil life, he was first a justice of the peace, then justice of the peace and quorum, afterwards promoted to a seat on the bench of the Court of Common Pleas for Middlesex County. He represented Groton, with the districts of Pepperell and Shirley, in the General Assembly of the province of Massachusetts, several times. He possessed excellent judgment, a benevolent disposition, and unfeigned piety.

For some reason unknown to the writer, Joseph Stevens waived his right of calling the first meeting of the proprietors after the incorporation of the town, and this duty devolved on Benjamin Prescott, Esq., of Groton, in manner as follows:—

"MIDDLESEX SS.

"To John Stevens of Townshend in the County afore-said one of the proprietors in the common and undivided



lands in the Township of Townshend in the County aforesaid Greeting.

"Whereas Col. Josiah Willard, Joseph Stevens, Thomas Phillips by his attorney Isaac Farnsworth, Josiah Willard of Boston Esq., by his attorney Josiah Willard Esq., William Lawrence and yourself, one of the proprietors of the common and undivided lands in Townshend aforesaid, have made application to me Benjamin Prescott Esq. one of His Majesties Justices of the Peace for the county of Middlesex aforesaid for a Warrent for the calling of a meeting of the proprietors of the common and undivided lands to be held at the Public Meeting House in Townshend aforesaid on the last Monday of July current at eleven of the clock in the forenoon; to the end that being duly mett and formed they may then and there elect and choose a clerk for the proprietors aforesaid, Also agree upon and order the laying-out into lotts and dividing the land remaining undivided in said town, to and amongst the proprietors aforesaid, or such part thereof and in such a way and manner as may be thought best and be agreed on, and choose and empower proper persons for a committee to manage and perform the same, and give them such instructions and directions for their proceedings therein as shall be thought fit.

"Also to hear and examine the claims of the proprietors aforesaid to any interest in the undivided lands aforesaid, and if they see cause to choose a committee for that purpose, and also order proper records to be made up of the grants and rights of lands in said Town.

"Also to hear and examine the accompts of the several committees or persons employed for or in behalf of the proprietors aforesaid for their trouble or expense in or





about any of the proprietors' business, and of any money resting in their hands due to the proprietors, and order payment of any money that may be found due to any person for any service by them done for the proprietors, and choose and empower proper persons to call and oblige any person so employed to render such account if need be. Also to agree upon and appoint some proper way and method for calling and warning proprietors meetings in Townshend for the future upon any proper occasion.

"These are therefore in His Majesties name to require and command you to notify the Proprietors of the common and undivided land in Townshend aforesaid that they convene and meet at the time and place above mentioned, then and there when met and formed according to law, to proceed, conclude, determine and finish the several matters and things above mentioned as the occasion and business of the said meeting, and to the end the proprietors aforesaid may have the better knowledge of the said meeting you shall post up a Notification in Writing expressing the time, Place and Occasion aforesaid of the said meeting in some public place in Townshend aforesaid, fourteen days before the day appointed for the meeting as aforesaid.

"Hereof fail not, and have you this Warrant with your doings thereon at the said meeting.

"Given under my hand and seal at Groton July 7th in the sixth year of his Majesties Reign anno que dominie 1732.

BENJAMIN PRESCOTT

Justice of the Peace"

Hon. Benjamin Prescott, was born in Groton, 1696. Butler, in his history of Groton, says: "He was a man of



superior mental endowments and of commanding appearance." He was the father of Col. William Prescott, who was partly in command at the battle of Bunker Hill. He represented Groton most of the time from 1724 till his death. In 1724, he was a justice of the peace, then only twenty-eight years old, afterwards he was a justice of the peace and quorum, and in 1735, he was appointed a judge in the superior court. "In 1738, the year of his death, he was appointed to represent the Province at the court of Great Britain, which office he declined, giving as a reason that he had never had the small-pox. Hon. Edmund Quincy was appointed in his stead and died in his mission, of the same disease which Mr. Prescott so much feared would prove fatal to himself. By over-exertion in saving some hay from a shower, he became surfeited, and died in August, 1738, in his forty-third year."\* This gentleman had much influence in encouraging the settlement of North Town. His judgment was almost always consulted in matters affecting proprietary interests. His lands were on Nissequassick Hill.

Daniel Taylor lived on the west side of the road leading from the Harbor to Lunenburg, about half a mile southerly of the garrison previously mentioned. The house he occupied during the latter part of his life, which he built, one of the oldest in town, weather beaten and corroded by the tooth of time, is still standing and occupied. The lands, on both sides of the road, belonging to this estate have been sold piecemeal, with the exception of about four acres on which this old unpainted house stands.

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\* Prescott Memorial, page 49.



Longfellow could see poetry in every decorative moulding attached to these ancient gables.

"In that mansion used to be  
Free hearted hospitality."

It was once elegant, costly in its finish and eligible in its location. Joy at the advent of the helpless infant, the solemn words "I do" and "I will" at the marriage, and the suppressed moaning of the survivor of the departed, have all been echoed by the shrunken panels on those quaint old rooms. He owned land in fourteen different places in this town, besides being possessed with a good amount of property. He owned more slaves than any other person in town. There were then here five or six families who had negro servants.\*

Capt. Taylor, "of the training band," buried three wives, leaving the fourth a widow at his decease in 1783. One of his daughters, by his second wife, Sarah, married Deacon Daniel Adams, in 1772, and was the mother of Daniel Adams, M. D., author of the *Scholar's Arithmetic*.

Isaac Spaulding, came from Chelmsford, and bought the proprietary right of his oldest brother, Deacon Andrew Spaulding, who was also one of the original proprietors of New Ipswich, New Hampshire. He settled on the south side of the Harbor pond. He was a man of influence and the first Deacon of the church in Townsend, being one of the selectmen several times. The place where his son Jonathan settled, near the southeast corner of the town, was Andrew Spaulding's second division, and it still remains in the same family, the present being the fifth generation:

\*—Phillis, a servant of John Stevens, born Nov. 26, 1752. Annie, a servant of Benjamin Brooks, born 1756."—*Town Records*.





Isaac, Jonathan, Jonathan, Jonathan, Sarah H., the present occupant and one of the heirs. This and the Emery place are the only locations in this town known to have remained in the hands of the descendants of the first settlers. Zackeriah Emery, broke the wilderness. Zackeriah, John, Joel, and Charles, the only male heir. Deacon John Spaulding, (died 1866, aged 72,) was a great-grandson of Deacon Isaac. These Spauldings are and were a robust, intelligent people, honest and upright in every particular, and somewhat noted for their longevity. Without doubt, more persons by the name of Spaulding have been born in Townsend and made it their "continued abiding place," than those of any other name.

"The Spaulding Memorial," a book recently published and in the possession of many by that name, renders it unnecessary to pursue further any notice of persons of that name. The Townsend Spauldings are all descended from Deacon Isaac Spaulding.

It may be considered unimportant by some readers and critics, that so much has been said in this work concerning the first settlers of this goodly town. But when distant generations shall come and ask of the past, and search for traces of their pilgrim ancestry, every local history now extant, every sketch in the annals of any town whether small or great, wherever located, and by whomsoever settled, will be perused with fresh interest. In reviewing the poverty and hardships of our forefathers, it would be well to consider some of the *advantages* within their reach. One thing especially favorable to them was the productiveness of the soil, never before laid under contribution by the husbandman. This was "Turkey Hills, North Town." Wild game was abundant, which, together



with the cattle, swine, and sheep, made our ancestors a carnivorous, rather than a "carnally minded" people. Of wild beasts, the only one particularly inimical to their interests, was the wolf. A price was set upon his head for years. The Indians and the wolves expected no quarter from the settlers, there being considerable difference in the price paid for the heads (or scalps) of each. Capt. Lovewell and his men received one hundred pounds for every Indian scalp wherever taken, while the bounty paid by the settlers was "ten pounds, old tenor, for every wolf killed within the borders of the town, during the year."

Certain persons were chosen annually to fire the woods to destroy the trees, that grass and luxuriant plants might spring up for cattle, sheep, and horses. Swine ran free, preying indiscriminately on nuts, acorns, and berries.

The method of travelling in those times, was somewhat slower and surer than was either pleasant or convenient. Oxen hitched to an awkward, clumsy, two-wheeled vehicle, as an apology for a cart, were used to convey parties to church, to weddings and evening entertainments, whenever the roads were suitable for that kind of locomotion. Should the objective point be at a distance, and the "way" rough, horseback travel was the style. Two or three persons would go to church riding on the same horse. The husband, wife, and one or two children, would mount from a horse-block, when, all would "go up to worship" in a "tabernacle," rude and uncouth, yet "how amiable" to these parents. The library of most every family, except the "learned orthodox minister of good conversation," consisted of the Bible, the Psalter, a few pamphlets, and some well read religious books. As manufacturers, it can only be remarked that the use of the spinning-wheel, brought



over by the settlers of Londonderry, New Hampshire, in 1719, must have been known and used generally by these people. Their implements of husbandry and agriculture must have been extremely unhandy, and continued so for a long time. The exemplary, moral character, of these descendants of the pilgrims, must not be overlooked. Our ancestors not only *believed* in integrity of character, but they *lived* as they believed. \* Bancroft bears this testimony to the early character of New England, in whose honor it is our right to share, that "the purity of morals completed the picture of colonial felicity. One might dwell there from year to year and not see a drunkard, or hear an oath, or meet a beggar. I have dwelt," he adds, "the longer on the character of the early puritans of New England, for they are the parents of one-third of the white population of the United States. Their descendants (in 1834), numbered not far from four millions. Each family has multiplied, on an average of one thousand souls."

At the first legal meeting of the proprietors, called by Benjamin Prescott, July 31, 1732, Edward Sherman was chosen moderator, and Jasher Wyman, clerk.

"Voted to proceed to a third division of land in said town and lay out to each proprietor sixty acres of land and qualify the same, excluding all meadows, and that Timothy Heald, Shadrack Whitney, Jasher Wyman, Ens. Jonathan Page, Joseph Baldwin, Amos Whitney, and Daniel Taylor, be a committee to lay out said lands, and that each proprietor draw for his lot when laid out."

It was the intention of these people that there should be as fair and equitable a division, as possible, among the

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\* Volume 1, page 167.



propriety, of all the swale lands or meadows in the town. Lands are designated in the records in three different ways: "His original or house lot which bears No. - " &c., "His Second," "Third," "Fourth," &c., "division lot," and "His meadow lot," the last of which were sometimes in parcels as small as three acres. There were one hundred and sixty grantees under the proprietors, some having lands in ten or twelve different parts of the town. There are about seven hundred and fifty titles to land in town to be found among these records. At the same meeting, July 31st:--

"Chose a committee to examine the claims of the proprietors." "Adjourned to the first Tuesday in November next." At the adjourned meeting, "chose a committee to examine the accounts of the several committees that have been betruſted with any buſineſs for the proprietors."

Josiah Willard, Eſq., and Lieut. William Lawrence "were added to the committee to lay out the third di-  
viſion." A vote was alſo paſſed whereby any five proprietors, petitioning their clerk in writing, could call a meeting of the proprietors. In June, 1733, "the committee choſen to examine the accounts of the ſeveral committees and perſons employed in and about the ſeveral ſervices done for the proprietors of ſaid town," reported that the proprietors were in debt one hundred and four pounds.

Whereupon "Voted to aſſeſs a tax of one hundred and fifty pounds, to be proportioned according to each proprietors' reſpective intereſt, and to be appropriated in paying the above mentioned ſum of one hundred and four pounds and other neceſſary charges."

"Ephraim Sawtell, John Stevens and Daniel Taylor were choſen aſſeſſors."





At this meeting, "Voted also by said proprietors, that they would allow and have allowed, unto Henry Parker and Henry Richardson, who built the meeting house in said town the sum of fifteen pounds to ease their hard bargain in building said meeting house, to be paid to them out of the proprietors' stock."

Voted, "that John Stevens, Amos Whitney, and Nathaniel Richardson, be a committee to inspect the common and undivided land in order to preserve the timber for the benefit of the proprietors."

"Voted that the selectmen of the town be empowered to lay out places convenient to the meeting house for building horse stables, so they may the least incommode the common."

These equestrians housed their horses quite snugly closing the doors of these "stables" against the wintry storms, while they, themselves, their wives and daughters, were engaged in worship in a building almost as rayless, chilly and forbidding as were the buildings in which they left their beasts of burden. They scarcely needed a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, when the horses were so much better cared for, in proportion, than were the members of their own families.

Meetings of the proprietors for the first ten years after the incorporation of the town, called by their clerk, by posting notices or warrants in the public places at Groton, and Concord, besides "a notice placed on one of the pillars of the State House at Boston," were frequent. There were only occasional meetings for the last half of the century, ending December 31, 1799, and then only for selling and locating the limited amount of lands not previously conveyed.



The last meeting of the proprietors was called "at the dwelling house of John Shipley inn-holder in Townsend Sept 16 1822," more than one hundred years after the line was run between Groton and North Town.

John Shipley's tavern was the same building that is now used for a hotel at Townsend Harbor, and it has been a public house ever since. At this meeting, among other acts, "Voted to close our proprietors' matters and to have our book of records and plan deposited with the town as prescribed by law in such cases.

JOSEPH ADAMS\*

Moderator

DANIEL ADAMS\*

Proprietors' Clerk"

The committee appointed by the Assembly "to allot and grant out" North Town were among the influential men of the province. Francis Fullam, the clerk of this committee, made some mistakes at their first meeting. "Bartholemew of Worcester," should have been Bartholemew Jones of Worcester, and again, "Stephen Richard for his son Joseph," should have been Stephen Richardson for his son Joseph. There were seven Richardsons, grantees here before 1737 (proprietors' records), among which we find the name of "Stephen Richardson for his son Joseph" in the index of said records. There undoubtedly was considerable enthusiasm and good feeling on that May morning when the committee met, at the old town of Concord, to do this work. The noise attending this unusual gathering, the large number present, together with the surroundings of Jonathan Hoberd's "inn," might have

\* Brothers.



been the cause of these and other unimportant errors. It may be of interest to some to know the fact that the land of Nathaniel Colburn, the servant of John Hunt, of Concord, the original proprietor, was in part, the farm now owned by the heirs of the late Joseph Haynes, deceased. From this and other circumstances, we may infer that the relations existing between master and slave, in this province, one hundred and fifty years ago, must have been much more creditable to the "superior race," than was that slavery made null and void by the great rebellion.

The following is a list of the clerks of the proprietors and the years during which they served :—

Jasher Wyman, from 1732 to 1756.

Jonathan Wallace, from 1756 to 1775.

James Locke, from 1775 to 1786.

William Hobart, from 1786 to 1790.

Daniel Adams, from 1790 to 1822.

These men possessed a fair amount of literary ability, and the records which they made will compare very favorably in every particular with those of their contemporaries in our neighboring towns.

Jonathan Wallace wrote a delicate hand, almost feminine, but remarkably legible.

At a meeting of the proprietors in January, 1775,—  
"Voted to dismiss Mr. Jonathan Wallace as proprietors' clerk, and have chosen James Locke in his room," and at the same meeting—"At the request of Jonathan Wallace it was put to vote to dismiss him in all the offices he sustained in the propriety of Townsend as a committee man, and chose Mr. Lemuel Petts in his room in all said offices." This was from political motives as will be explained further along in this work.

According to the record, Mr. Locke, "being about to





leave town," tendered his resignation (1786), whereupon the proprietors passed the following, which is the only complimentary vote in their whole records:—

"Voted the thanks of this propriety be returned to Mr. James Locke, late clerk, for all his good services, and that Mr. Daniel Clark be a committee to inform him thereof."

There thus appears a great disparity between the popularity of these two men, whereas one might have been equally honest as the other. Mr. Locke had but little to do as clerk, "the heat and burden of the day" being borne by Wyman and Wallace.

A list of the moderators of the meetings of the proprietors, and the years during which they held the office, is here inserted:—

Edward Sherman, 1732; Josiah Willard, 1733; Ephraim Sawtell, 1733, 1735, 1754, 1758; Samuel Kendall, 1733; William Lawrence, 1734, 1735, 1736, 1737, 1739; Isaac Farnsworth, 1734; Daniel Taylor, 1748; James Prescott, 1765, 1766; Josiah Sartel, 1767, 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, 1775, 1780; Lemuel Petts, 1784, 1801; William Hobart, 1786; Oliver Prescott, 1790; Jonas Prescott, 1793; Levi Kemp, 1797; Joel Adams, 1808; Joseph Adams, 1822.

Meetings were often adjourned from time to time, so that moderators frequently presided at a meeting a year or two from the time of their election.

Among the inhabitants of Concord, were some of the leading men of this province, at the time of the settlement of Townsend, and onward.

December 6, 1737, "a township east of the Monadnock hills, on the southern branch of Contoocook river," was granted to Samuel Hayward, and others, of Concord. This township was afterwards principally owned by Peter



Prescott,\* of Concord, who was a large landholder and speculator. To the influence of Concord men may be traced much of the success of Townsend when taking its place among the towns of "the Massachusetts Bay."

Our limits forbid anything further concerning the settlers and founders of this town, quite a number of whom were military men, some holding commissions under the King, and again under the Commonwealth, when our independence was the objective point.

Something of an incomprehensible character comes down to us from these bold and intrepid men. They appear almost within the environment of romance, rather than struggling for homes where they could enjoy "freedom to worship God." Some barrier, always overcome, generally interposed between them and success. A wilderness was displaced, and in its stead Ceres and Pomona smiled in the sunlight. A savage foe lurked around their cabins and garrisons, but "the annointed children of education were too powerful for the tribes of the ignorant." And when, after a long time, they began to enjoy the fruits of their labors, and hymns of gratitude ascended from their altars, their king taxed them beyond their endurance and compelled them to draw the sword. Then came "the tug of war," in which they were *again* victorious. Would that the photographer's art could reach back and give us the forms and features of these brave men. But like the knights of olden time:—

"Their swords are rust,  
Their bones are dust,  
Their souls, we trust,  
Are with the just."

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\* Tradition says that Peter Prescott, during the time he passed at Peterborough lived in a semi-subterranean cave, snugly enconced in an abrupt hill-side with a sunny outlook; and that his Concord friends, and the land-speculator, would talk about "Peter's burrow," of "going up to Peter's burrow,"—hence Peterborough or the name of the town.



## CHAPTER III.

### *ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.*

Settlement of Rev. Phineas Hemenway, the First Minister of Townsend—Memoir of him by Rev. Mr. Temple—Church Covenant written by Mr. Hemenway—Account of Servants (negroes) belonging to the Church—Church Discipline—Owning the Covenant—New Lights—Character of Mr. Hemenway—His Death—Settlement of Rev. Samuel Dix—Account of his Pastorate—Sample of his Eloquence—Action of the Church at the decease of Rev. Mr. Dix—Ordination of Rev. David Palmer—Character of Mr. Palmer as an Educator—The Unitarian Excitement and Withdrawal of Mr. Palmer from the Town Meeting-house—Account of the Latter Part of his Life—Pastorate of William M. Rogers—Pastorate of Columbus Shumway—Pastorate of David Stowell—Pastorate of Luther H. Sheldon—Pastorate of E.W. Cooke—Pastorate of Moses Patten—Pastorate of George H. Morss—Pastorate of Henry C. Fay—Ordination of Albert F. Newton—Names of the Deacons—The Unitarians and Their Ministers—The Methodists.

These descendants of the pilgrims, as soon as possible, placed themselves within the sound of the gospel. Unfortunately for the writer, the records of the town, for the first two years after its incorporation, are lost; so that it is impossible to give as full and particular account of the settlement of our first "learned, orthodox minister," as is desirable.

Their house of worship had been built three or four years before a minister was ordained within its walls.



There is no record of the dedication of this building. Neither do we know who were the candidates who came to speak to these people, who were about to establish a church here. Tradition informs us that the settlers, before they had a minister, were accustomed to go to Groton on the sabbath to hear Rev. Mr. Trowbridge, travelling by couples (man and wife), on horseback, and crossing the Nashua River at "stony fording place," where the bridge now is between Pepperell and Groton. Frequently men went on foot the same route and for the same purpose.

At a town meeting in March, 1734: "Voted that they would choose a committee of three to purchase a lot for the minister."

This "minister" was the Rev. Phineas Hemenway, whom they had invited to be their spiritual adviser, and the "lot," which the committee "purchased," was situated about a quarter of a mile northerly of their meeting-house. The "call" to this gentleman is not to be found, but on the eleventh page of the town records is recorded Mr. Hemenway's answer to such a solicitation, which is as follows:—

"To the Inhabitants of the town of Townshend July the 22, 1734.

"GENTLEMEN: Having received from you a call to settle in the work of the evangelical ministry among you. These are to inform you, that, after serious consideration of the great work to which you have called me, and I hope, fervent prayer and supplication to the throne of Grace for Divine assistance in so great and important an affair, although it be with a trembling soul, yet, I dare not withstand so plain a call from God and his people, but humbly manifest to you my acceptance thereof. And





inasmuch as great difficulties and disturbances have happened in some places of this land with respect to ministers salaries through the alteration of our medium of trade or Bills of Credit; to prevent future trouble or wrong upon either side which may arise upon that head, I desire and expect that the value of our province bills from time to time may be ascertained and secured, and that by a proper vote of the town. Praying God to direct, guide and bless all of you and all your motions and endeavors to settle Christs ministry and ordinances among you; withal, entreating your prayers to the throne of Grace for me, I take leave and subscribe myself (with thanks for the many kindnesses and respect you have shown for me)

"Your souls friend and Humble Servant

PHINEAS HEMENWAY"

Mr. Hemenway was ordained on the third Wednesday of October, 1734. He lived on the hill where the meeting-house stood, on the east side of the road, about fifty rods northerly of that location.

At a town meeting on the 29th of July, 1834: "Voted that they would ascertain the bills of credit for Mr. Hemenway's salary as silver money at twenty-five shillings per ounce, and that the said stated salary shall alter in proportion as the value of silver alters with the goldsmiths and merchants of the town of Boston."

It will thus be seen that the town, in a kindly spirit and with much alacrity, acceded to the reasonable suggestion of their pastor elect, who, with considerable worldly wisdom, foresaw a depreciation in the currency. Mr. Hemenway's salary was "stated" at £100 per annum, increasing five pounds each year till it reached £130. It appears by the town records, that from 1740 to 1759 his



salary varied from £140 to £210. In 1746, the town "Voted to choose a man for a committee to ask Col. Brattle [a Dunstable man] and Mr. Trowbridge [the minister at Groton] their opinions relating to Mr. Hemenway's salary." His salary for that year was £170. In 1747, it is put on record at £210, showing that their "opinions" favored an increase of his pay, undoubtedly owing to the depreciation of the scrip then in use. For a part of the time his yearly pay was from £35 to £40 "lawful money," instead of the "old tenor" currency. He received also £100 as a settlement, or with which to commence house-keeping.

The Rev. Mr. Temple, of Framingham, furnishes the following brief sketch of the first minister of Townsend:—

"Rev. Phineas Hemenway, was born at Framingham, April 26, 1706. He was the son of Joshua and Rebeckah Hemenway, of Roxbury. The father settled in Framingham in 1691, and was one of the founders of the church of Christ in this town, Oct. 8, 1701, at which time he was chosen deacon. He had enjoyed the advantages which Roxbury afforded and received a superior education, for the time. He was town school-master in 1706. He was a man of decided convictions and earnest piety.

"In doctrinal belief, he agreed with Edwards; in church polity, he was a strict congregationalist, as opposed to the presbyterian tendencies of the day. He took a firm stand in favor of the revival under Edwards and Whitefield, and was known by and shared the confidence of, such men as Rev. Messrs. Sewall and Prince of Boston. He was an acknowledged leader in the civil affairs of the town; was deputy to the General Court, 1712, 1717, and held many important offices of trust. Phineas, the son, grew up under the influence of such a home, and was graduated at Harvard College, 1730. No traditions as to



his person or character are preserved in the family, He was the first native born son of Framingham to graduate at college, and was elected master of the grammar school, at the close of his senior year. He commenced teaching July 27, and continued in the service one year, for which he received the sum of £50."

It is not known that any of his sermons were printed, and in fact none of his writings have been preserved, except what is contained in the first book of the church records, the first part of which is in his chirography.

The church covenant was the first record made in this book by Mr. Hemenway. This being all that we have from his pen, it is thought quite pertinent to insert it here in full :—

"Townsend, October 16, 1734. Then there was a church gathered in this place and the covenant which was submitted to and subscribed by the persons as follows :

"We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> town of Townshend in New England, apprehending ourselves called of God into the church state of the gospel, do first of all confess ourselves unworthy to be so highly favored of the Lord and admire that free and rich grace of His which triumphs over so great unworthiness, and an humble dependance on free grace for divine assistance and acceptance &c, do in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ freely covenant to bind ourselves solemnly in the presence of God Himself His holy angels and all his servants here present :—

"1. That we will choose to take y<sup>e</sup> Lord Jehovah to be our God, and we promise, depending upon the grace of



God for assistance, to fear Him, cleave to Him in love and to serve Him in truth with our hearts, giving up ourselves to be his in all things; to be at his direction and disposal, that we may have and hold communion with Him as members of Christs mystical body according to his revealed will, to our lives end.

"2. That we will bring up our children and servants in the knowledge and fear of God, by his holy instruction according to our best abilities, and in special by the use of orthodox catechisms, that the true religion may be maintained in our families while we live, yea and among such as shall live when we are dead and gone.

"3. That we will keep close to the truth of Christ contained in the sacred scriptures; endeavoring with Godly zeal to defend it against all opposers thereof as God shall call at any time; and we therefore resolve to take the Scriptures as our *sole rule* and guide in all things and not the *unscriptural* inventions of men.

"4. That we will have a careful inspection over our own hearts, so as to endeavor by the virtue of the death of Christ, to effect the mortification of all our sinful passions and disorderly affections, whereby we may be withdrawn from the living God.

"5. That we will faithfully improve our abilities and opportunities to worship God according to the institutions of Christ under the gospel administration, as continually and reverently to attend upon y<sup>e</sup> public worship of God, and to have communion with our fellow members in the use of both the seals of the covenant of Grace, Baptism and the Lords Supper.





"6. That we will peaceably submit to the holy discipline as approved by Christ in his church for offenders, and we also engage that we will obey those that rule over us in the Lord.

"7. That we will walk in love toward our fellow-members endeavoring their edification, visiting, exhorting, comforting (as occasion serveth) and warning any brother or sister walking disorderly, nor divulging private offences irregularly, but heedfully following the precepts laid down by Christ for church dealing in Math. ch. 18, vs. 15, 16, 17, willingly forgiving all that we refer to the judgment of charity that they truly repent.

PHINEHAS HEMENWAY	JOHN WALLIS
JOSEPH STEVENS	SAMUEL MANNING
WILLIAM CLARK	JACOB BALDWIN
NATHANIEL TAILOR	SAMUEL CLARK
DANIEL TAILOR	JOHN SLOWEN
JOSEPH BALDWIN	BENJAMIN TAILOR
JOHN STEVENS	ISAAC SPALDING
JAMES McDONALD	JEREMIAH BALL

Soon after the organization of the church, some of the wives of these men, and others of the same sex, were received into the church. Among this list, we find "On March 11th 1739 Sarah Hemenway y<sup>e</sup> wife of y<sup>e</sup> Rev. Phinehas Hemenway, having received a letter of dismission from y<sup>e</sup> church of Southboro was received into our church fellowship and communion."

During Mr. Hemenway's pastorate which covered a period of some more than twenty-six years, the church increased in numbers from sixteen to seventy-nine. The letters of recommendation, by which members were



received, during Mr. Hemenway's ministry were from the churches in Chelmsford, Andover, Southboro, Billerica, Hopkinton, Lunenburg and Groton, in Massachusetts, and Nottingham West, Greenland and New Ipswich, in New Hampshire.

"Townshend Jan. 26, 173 $\frac{1}{2}$ , then was received into the church Mary the wife of Lieut. Daniel Taylor."

An explanation of the figures in this record, made by Mr. Hemenway, may be of interest to some readers. The manner of the change from Old Style to New Style, is substantially and summarily as follows:—

The Julian year consisted of three hundred and sixty-five days and six hours—making the year too long by about eleven minutes. Pope Gregory XIII., in 1582, attempted to reform the calendar. From the time of the Council of Nice to the time of Gregory, this excess of eleven minutes amounted to about ten days. To make it all right, it was ordered that the year 1582 should consist of only three hundred and sixty-five days, and that ten days, between the fourth and fourteenth of October, should be expelled from the calendar for that year. To prevent any further discrepancies it was also ordered, that no year commencing a century should be leap year, excepting each four hundredth year. This method set aside three days every four hundred years, at the rate of nearly eleven minutes per year during that time, leaving an error of only one day in five thousand two hundred years.

Before the time of Gregory, the calendar was arranged by Julius Caesar. This was the Julian period or Old Style, the Gregorian being known as New Style. All Romanist countries adopted the New Style immediately.



Great Britain, and her colonies, from prejudice against and hatred of anything of papal origin, did not adopt the New Style till 1752, or one hundred and forty years after the ingenious alteration by Gregory. Before 1752 England had two methods of beginning the year. The historical year began on the first of January—the legal and ecclesiastical year on the twenty-fifth of March. The change of style adopted by Great Britain, in 1752, fixed the first of January as the commencement of the year, and abolished the distinction between the legal and historical year.

The difference in the commencement of the respective years, led to a system of double dating from the 1st of January to the 25th of March,—sometimes January 26, 1734-5 or 173 $\frac{1}{2}$ , the 4 denoting the *legal*, and 5 the *historical* year. By our present method of reckoning, therefore, Mrs. Taylor, was admitted into the church February 6th, 1734.

The church book of records, with the exception of a few pages, is in the hand writing of Mr. Hemenway and his successor in the ministry. It contains a full and accurate account of the names of the church members, and the time when each became such, the baptisms administered, and the marriages performed by each of these pastors, together with some examples of church discipline. This book shows the customs and state of society, as well as the fidelity with which our fathers adhered to their church covenant.

"On December 14th 1735 was baptized Andrew Notgrass a servant child of William and Eunice Clark."

"On May 19th 1745 Ama a Negro servant of Mr. Benjamin Brooks was received into full communion with the church of Christ in Townshend."



"On September 4th 1737 was baptized, David the child of Robert and Sarah Avery on her account."

"July 13 1740 was baptized Bette the daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Campbell, after he had owned the baptismal covenant."

The practice of "owning the covenant," many instances of which are recorded, consisted in permitting persons publicly to give their assent to the creed of the church, "or own the covenant" as it was styled, which gave them the privilege of presenting their children for baptism, but not of communion. These persons did not necessarily profess any moral or religious qualifications of membership, but simply an intellectual assent to the creed, and were sometimes styled "half-way members." They were not subject to the discipline of the church, but sometimes, when admitted to these limited privileges, were required to confess an open fault or offence. These confessions upon the old records of the church do not prove a "full communion," as is sometimes supposed, but may refer to either method of admission. The term "admitted to full communion" showed a square standing on the church platform, while "owning the covenant" only indicated a partial adherence to the church for the sake of securing the benefit of baptism for their children.

"Whereas Cæsar a negro servant of Mr. John Conant, a member of the church of Townshend has for sometime [been] in a disorderly and schismatical way withdrawn and separated from the communion and public worship of said church, to the breach of his solemn covenant engagements, when he joined in full communion with said church, and to their great grief and offence, which practice of his tends to the dissolution and destruction of this church and the order of the gospel among us.





"Said church therefore met December 18 1751 to consider and act upon this case, and after prayer to God for direction and assistance and hearing what he had to say in vindication of his conduct, in writing and by word of mouth, the church voted unanimously :

"1. That Cæsars misconduct in separating from the communion and worship of our church in Townshend is in our judgment matter of public scandal.

"2. Voted that until said Cæsar gives good grounds of repentance for his misconduct, we suspend him from our communion."

It would have been interesting if "Cæsar's Commentaries" on his secession from the church had been spread upon the records along with the above account.

"At a church meeting June 9th, appointed to reconsider the case of Mrs. ———, recorded in 23d and 24th pages.

"Voted 1 that after several years consideration and much consultation among ourselves and with others, respecting the case, and having free converse with the said Mrs. ———, this day, and receiving some new light, we see cause to retract our former judgment and restore her to the privileges of partaking with us; and with regard to some difficulties attending the case, we submit them to God and her own conscience.

"2. That she be advised to examine herself diligently to see if there was not some iniquity in her conduct in the said affair. Accordingly she was advised in the name and presence of the church."

We can conceive of nothing that comports more strictly with the teaching of Christ and his immediate followers than this simple act. Men, who thus put themselves squarely on record and *live* in the same manner that



they *teach*, can use the whole of the Lord's prayer, including "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

About the time of Mr. Hemenway's settlement here, the distinguished reformer, John Wesley, came to the theological surface, causing a ripple co-extensive with christendom. The English church, united with a pampered and proud nobility, contained vice and corruption in their worst forms. A writer thus describes the situation of affairs at that period: "Deism had crept into the universities; the established church was filled with men who made religion a profession, and had won the highest prizes of the church by the acts of the politician and the grossest forms of intrigue. No one in fact supposed it was wrong to buy a deanery or clamor for a bishopric; that it was necessary for prelate or priest to be a christian; or to live in abstinence and go about doing good. The people were left in ignorance and vice, the cottages were filled with want and blasphemy. The bishop's palace was often the haunt of fashionable revelry, and the bishop's chief aim, to save from his vast income a sufficient sum to leave his sons in opulence and marry his daughters to titled husbands."

The remarkable elocutionary powers of Wesley, together with his sublime faith and unostentatious life, gained for him an audience from all grades and conditions of men. His efforts made a lasting impression, favorable to the cause of morality and true piety. Perhaps no man was ever his peer in arousing the vicious, gaining their confidence, and inducting them to a life of peace and religious consolation.

In common with all reformers his fame soon spread abroad, and this Oxford graduate, whose eloquence was so



irresistible, soon had admirers and imitators among the sons of Harvard College. Some of the most influential among the clergy, in this vicinity, embraced the "sensational" style of preaching, among whom were Mr. Bird, of Dunstable, New Hampshire, and Mr. Bliss, of Concord. These men were called at the time New Lights. The people in both these towns were exceedingly agitated in this matter. The town of Chelmsford was "infected with lay-exhorters; and distracted by such persons [the revivalists] preaching in private houses without the consent of the stated pastor."\*

Mr. Bird encountered a bitter hostility, and soon moved out of the town, while the disagreement among the people and church members ended only with their lives.

In Concord, town meetings, church meetings, and ecclesiastical councils, were held in quick succession, their object being the displacement of Rev. Daniel Bliss, who was a New Light. All these movements failed to accomplish what was intended, for Mr. Bliss had a "mouth and wisdom which all his adversaries could not gainsay or resist."

George Whitefield, a co-worker of Wesley, and a noted preacher, came over from England and visited Concord. He was so impressed on hearing Mr. Bliss preach that he said, "If I had studied my whole life, I could not have produced such a sermon."† This was the

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\* Allen's History of Chelmsford, page 116.

† "In the Boston Evening Post, of March, 1733, is published a letter from a gentleman of unquestionable veracity, in Hopkinton," giving an account of a sermon preached there by Mr. Bliss, in which it is said: "He began in a low, moderate strain, and went on for some time in the same manner; but towards the close of his sermon, he began to raise his voice, and use many extravagant gestures; and then began a considerable groaning amongst his auditors, which as soon as he perceived he raised his voice still higher, and then the congregation were in the utmost confusion, some crying out in the most doleful accents, some howling, some laughing, and others singing, and Mr. Bliss, still roaring to them to come to Christ—they answering *I will, I will, I'm coming, I'm coming*."—History of Concord.



last appearance of Mr. Bliss in the pulpit, and his last sermon. He died of consumption in just one week from that time, in comparison, as much lantented *then* as he was censured during the six or seven years of heated controversy through which they had passed.

The church of Townsend, and its pastor, kept aloof from all these difficulties, which fact alone is sufficient to establish the wisdom of the conservative position taken by Mr. Hemenway during his pastorate of more than twenty-six years. It may be said that he lived in strict conformity to the covenant which he drew when the church was gathered. From the information within reach it appears that he was of exemplary character, social in his intercourse with his people, averse to all dogmatical controversies, both in and out of the pulpit, and determined only "to fight the good fight of faith." His mind from boyhood craved the mathematical, perhaps at the expense of the polishing and inspiring influences of poetry and literature. He seldom attempted to move his audience by oratory, and if it cannot be said that "truths divine came mended from his tongue," yet it is a well established fact, that he was a very acceptable preacher of the gospel, and that he enjoyed the confidence and esteem of his contemporary brethren in the ministry.\*

He married Mrs. Sarah Stevens, of Marlborough, May 8, 1739, who survived him, and in October, 1761,\* married David Taylor, of Concord.

There has nothing come down to us from those far back colonial times, no record soiled by the breath of the

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\* At the ordination of Rev. Joshua Goodhue, over the second parish in Dunstable, Mass., on the 6th of June, 1757, "The Revd. Joseph Emerson, of Pepperell, began ye Solemn Exercises of yt Day with Prayer; The Revd. Daniel Emerson, Preached ye Sermon from Luke 21st 60th Phinehas Hemenway gave ye charge; And the Revd. Daniel Wilkins, of Southegoin, gave The right Hand of Fellowship."—*Church records by Mr. Goodhue* [Daniel Emerson, belonged to Hollis, N. H. Southegoin was the Indian name of Amherst, N. H.]





generations that have appeared and gone, no mutilated manuscript descended in an ancestral line, *nothing* to satisfy the enquirer, either as to who were the men who assisted when he took upon himself his ordination vows, or who spoke consoling words to his widow and children at his mournful obsequies. The slate head-stone which marks the spot where he was buried contains the following inscription:—

ERECTED BY THE TOWN  
TO THE MEMORY OF  
REV. MR. PHINEAS HEMENWAY,  
THE FIRST PASTOR OF THE CHURCH HERE,  
Who departed this life May 20, 1760,  
AGED 55,  
In the 27th year of his Ministry.

He was sound in the faith, zealous in the Cause of God, meek and patient under trials, Diligent in improving his talents, faithful to his Lord, and to the souls of his people.

*From death's arrows, no age or station is free.*

At a town meeting, September 16, 1760. "Voted that the Rev. Mr. Hemenway's salary run on six weeks after his decease, provided Madame Hemenway will give the town the boarding of the bearers the six days they preached."

The inference from this record is, that in those days, the death of a minister was considered a public bereavement, and that this town had the deep sympathy of the neighboring churches and their pastors, on this occasion.



At a meeting of the town, June 20, 1760, "Voted to pay all the charges occasioned by the Reverend Mr. Hemenways funeral which are £102 16s. 8d. old tenor, and that the selectmen provide the preaching of the gospel at present—and provide a place for the minister to keep at."

With commendable promptness the town on the twentieth of October, following: "Voted and chose Mr. Samuel Dix to be their pastor and gospel minister by a unanimous vote." Whereupon the church gave him a call, which he accepted by a formal letter to that body, January 13th, 1761.

Mr. Dix, was a native of Reading, born March 23, 1736; was graduated at Harvard University, 1758, ordained March 4th, 1761, died November 12th, 1797, in the thirty-sixth year of his pastorate, aged sixty-two.

The Dix family, not only in the Rev. Samuel Dix's generation, but in that which preceded it, was noted for great perseverance, strict conformity to puritanical principles united with a good degree of culture.

One of his brothers was the first school-master of the town of Dunstable, New Hampshire, another brother, who resided for a short time in one or two of the neighboring towns in New Hampshire, was the grand-father of John A. Dix, Ex-Governor of New York. They belonged to that class of men to whom we are largely indebted for both civil and religious liberty.

The class in which Mr. Dix graduated at the university contained an unusually large number of men who afterwards entered the ministry, some of whom in ability and usefulness were much above mediocrity. One of his class-mates, Rev. Samuel Payson, was ordained at Lunenburg, September 8, 1762, and died February 14, 1763,



aged 24. Mr. Dix was about twenty-five years old when he was ordained.

Rev. Simeon Howard, a distinguished divine, of the same class in college, was for a time Professor of Divinity at Edinburgh, Scotland. Thirteen, of this class of thirty-one members, were ministers of the gospel.

When Mr. Dix came to this town, log-cabins were about going out of fashion, being superseded by substantial frame houses, made from lumber sawed at "Comant's mill," or the mill at the Harbor. The house now owned and occupied by Israel H. Spaulding, was built for Mr. Dix, and he lived there till 1770, when he moved to the parsonage given to the town by Lieut. Amos Whitney.

In most instances, these houses were large, uncomfortable two-story structures, the rooms on the first floor being generally finished with a suitable panel-work ceiling. The second story, which was the dormitory of the family, except the parents, seldom had any finish unless perhaps a temporary partition across the middle of the house. The pattering of the rain on the roof in midsummer, or the more blustering music of the wind at the December solstice, were both welcomed by the rustic sleepers within.

The town voted to give Mr. Dix £133 6s. 8d. for his settlement, and £60 13s. 8d. for his annual salary. It soon became apparent that this sum was inadequate to his support, on account of the abundance of paper money then in circulation. The town with alacrity increased his pay, in proportion as the scrip lessened in value.

In 1779, the town "voted to raise £1,000 for the support of Rev. Samuel Dix, and his family, the present year, including his salary," and at a town meeting July 4, 1780,



"voted to raise £6,000 to make up Mr. Dix's salary to the fourth of September next."

The pastorate of Mr. Dix was a continued era of good feeling and concord, and in fact, no disagreement of any magnitude ever visited the church in this town for nearly a century from the time it was gathered.

Mr. Dix was a very successful pastor, and was much respected and beloved by all who knew him, as a neighbor, a citizen, a "man of God." In addition to his labors in Townsend he did considerable work of a missionary character at towns in this vicinity, where they had no ordained minister, and only occasional preaching. He did pastoral work in the towns of Raby [now Brookline], Mason, Jaffrey, Hancock, and Limerick [now Stoddard], in the State of New Hampshire, and at Ashby. He took much interest in the moral and religious affairs in these towns, and he had the pleasure and satisfaction of living long enough to know that each of these places had a regularly ordained minister.

The church and people in Brookline were under many obligations to Mr. Dix; and it was in accordance with his advice and good judgment, that the Rev. Lemuel Wardsworth was chosen first minister of that town. Ashby, also, had no settled minister until seventeen years after Mr. Dix was settled in Townsend. He must have made many journeys to these places, some of them long and tedious, during the prime of his life, not only to preach the word, but to solemnize marriages; to visit those who languished under pain and sickness; to alleviate the sorrows of the bereaved, when death had sealed the eyes and frozen the liquid current of vitality.

Mr. Dix was admirably adapted to the sacred calling which he espoused. He was dignified without coldness or





arrogance, cheerful without levity, and strictly courteous and condescending in his deportment. He gave his undivided attention to his pastoral duties, and with the exception of one or two patriotic sermons, delivered during the early part of the revolutionary war, he labored faithfully for "a crown incorruptible" both for himself and the people committed to his charge. He was an excellent classical scholar, and as a writer he would lose nothing by comparison either with his contemporaries in the ministry, or those who succeeded him in the church in Townsend.

The following is a sample of his style. It constituted an effort complete in itself, and on account of its clearness and brevity it is here inserted in full.

The charge, by Rev. Samuel Dix, of Townsend, at the ordination of Rev. Eli Smith, of Hollis, November 27, 1793:—

The great Savior, who is the head over all things to the Church, having, in his all governing providence, and as we trust, by his most gracious Spirit, called you, Sir, to this part of his vineyard, and united you with this people in love; and you being now solemnly introduced to the important work of the gospel ministry, and ordained a pastor of this flock in particular; we charge you, before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, to be faithful, as is required of his stewards, in the execution of this sacred office, and every part of it.

Preach the word; the word of God; the same truths and doctrines, which Christ and his Apostles preached. Preach them plainly and fully. Shun not to declare the whole counsel of God. Preach them actively and urgently, as becomes their inconceivable importance,



embracing all convenient opportunities. Be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long suffering and doctrine.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. In order to this, give yourself to reading and meditation, that your profiting may appear to all. Take heed to yourself and to your doctrine; continue in them, that you may both save yourself, and those that hear you.

We also charge you to be friendly and faithful to our Divine Master, to his Church and the interest of his kingdom, in respect of administering the seals of his covenant, Baptism and the Lords Supper. Teach the people of the Lord to discern between the holy and profane. Seek the purity as well as the increase of the church, which is Gods building; that being fitly framed into Jesus Christ, the chief corner-stone, it may grow into an holy temple in the Lord.

That you may know how you ought to behave yourself in regard to discipline, in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, learn of Christ and his apostles.

Take the oversight, not as being a lord over Gods heritage, but being an ensample to the flock. Observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality. Thus endeavor to preserve and promote the peace, unity and edification of the body of Christ. Now, therefore, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. For this purpose, and that you may be thoroughly furnished to all good works, continue in prayer; interceding for all men. Pray with and for the people of your charge, not only in public, but also in private. Wait on



the Lord, and he shall strengthen thy heart, and bless the people whom you may lead and teach, from time to time, in His name, who is the fountain of all grace and glory.

Whenever you may be called to assist in separating one to the great work, on which you are now entering, attend to his qualifications, especially as to his moral character, and religious sentiments. Lay hands suddenly on no man; but the things you have now received in trust, commit to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Be thou, Sir, an example of the believers, in conversation and charity, in faith and purity. Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Fight the good fight of faith. Lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called.

Dear brother, we give you charge, in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and of Christ Jesus, who, before Pontius Pilate, witnessed a good confession, that you keep this commandment of the Lord, without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of Jesus Christ, who saith, Surely I come quickly. AMEN.

Mr. Dix was held in high estimation by the Rev. Ebenezer Hill, of Mason, New Hampshire, who, at his own expense, caused two or three of his addresses to be printed, as exemplars of eloquence as well as piety, and from these the above was extracted. Mr. Dix married Miss Abigail Chandler, of Boston.

The Rev. Stephen Farrar, of New Ipswich, New Hampshire, who preached the funeral sermon of Mr. Dix, says of him: "He sustained the character of an upright and faithful man, who shone peculiarly in the virtues of meekness, patience, humility and self-denial," and that his



preaching was accompanied with "earnestness and pathos of address."

During the latter part of his life, for sometime, he experienced a degree of illness from which he suffered considerably; still he attended to his regular pastoral duties. There was a large assembly at his funeral, among which were many ministers, who came considerable distance to pay their respects to the memory of their friend and brother, for whom Death had "unveiled eternity." These reverend gentlemen gratuitously supplied the pulpit made vacant by the death of Mr. Dix, about two months from the time of his decease.

The ensuing summer, the town "voted and chose Lieut. Jacob Blodget a committee to obtain a suitable stone to be erected at the grave of Rev. Samuel Dix." On his gravestone is inscribed as follows:—

ERECTED BY THE TOWN

TO THE MEMORY OF

REV. MR. SAMUEL DIX,

The Second Pastor of the Church of Christ in Townsend,

Who departed this life, Nov. 12, 1797,

In the 62d year of his age, and the 36th year of his ministry.

He was sound in the faith, a lover of souls; humble, meek and patient under trials, kind, charitable and benignant to all.

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Ye living mortals, take a solemn view  
Of this, my silent, dark and long abode.  
Remember, you were born like me to die.  
Therefore prepare to meet a righteous God.





The town soon began to search for a minister, and in every particular regarded the advice of Mr. Farrar, contained in the funeral sermon: "You are now left as sheep without a shepherd. But the great Shepherd of the sheep still lives, and may His watchful care be your guard and defence. See that you be not like sheep scattered and dispersed upon the mountains; broken and divided into parties; but with united hearts and fervent cries, look to Him who can repair your breach, and give you a pastor according to his heart."

There were several candidates for a settlement over the church and congregation before the town made a choice.

Rev. Joshua Heywood (D. Col. 1795,) preached through a candidacy of "six sabbaths" during the summer of 1798, and in the autumn following the town "voted to hire Mr. Whitney (probably Rev. Nicholas B. Whitney, Har. Col. 1793,) for six sabbaths, commencing the third sabbath in February next. The length of time that Mr. Palmer preached as a candidate is not known, the town voting about the first of September, "to hear Mr. Palmer further in regard to a settlement."

The action of the church in regard to Mr. Palmer's settlement, as represented by the records, was as follows:

"The church met according to previous agreement, at the meeting house in this place Sept 3<sup>d</sup>. 1799, and chose the Rev. John Bullard moderator.

"Having addressed the throne of Grace for light and direction—Voted

"1<sup>st</sup> To proceed to the choice of a gospel minister, and



"2<sup>d</sup> To invite Mr. David Palmer to be our pastor and teacher.

"N. B. Each of the brethren present gave his vote in favor of Mr. Palmer except one, and he had no objection against him, but want of personal acquaintance.

"The meeting was then adjourned without a day.

JOHN BULLARD

Mod<sup>r</sup>. *pro tem.*"

The record continues thus: "Mr. Palmer having been served with a copy of the above votes (the Town concurring in the same) gave an affirmative answer to our invitation. The chh. being notified met accordingly upon adjournment, 2<sup>d</sup> day of December 1799—& voted

"1<sup>st</sup> To invite the Pastor & delegation of each of the following churches viz, the chhs. in Windham 2<sup>d</sup> society, N Ipswich, Shirley, Lunenburg, Lisbon, Groton, Ashby, Pepperell, Boscawen, Mason, Hollis, Brookline, & Fitchburg, to join in council for the purpose of separating our Pastor elect to the work whereunto he is called.

"2<sup>ly</sup> That Deacons, Richard Wier & Daniel Adams & brother Jacob Blodget, be a committee to prepare and forward letters missive to the above churches for s<sup>d</sup> purpose, and to lay before the council the doings of the church & Town.

"3<sup>dh</sup> Voted to dissolve the meeting.

"The meeting was dissolved accordingly.

JOHN BULLARD Mod<sup>r</sup>

*Pro Tem.*"

The terms on which Mr. Palmer was settled, including the use of the parsonage, the condition in which it was to



be fitted when he commenced occupancy, the manner in which he should leave the same, should he choose to do so, the mode of proceeding in case either party should become dissatisfied, and other "provisos" are profusely spread on the records of the town.

The first day of January, 1800, was appointed for the ordination, the exercises consisting of prayer by Rev. Daniel Chaplin, of Groton; sermon by Rev. Andrew Lee, of Lisbon, Connecticut; charge by Rev. Ebenezer Hill, of Mason, New Hampshire; right hand of fellowship by Rev. John Bullard, of Pepperell.

The new year, ordination day, opened bright and pleasant, the mercury being just below the freezing point; a few inches of snow, fastened down by a hard crust, rendered all kinds of locomotion very agreeable. The learned council, pastor elect, and invited guests, dined at the widow Sarah Conant's tavern, at the Harbor, at 12 o'clock.

After the good cheer of "mine hostess" had been under consideration for a suitable length of time, these venerable divines formed a procession and marched by the music of fife and drum, to the meeting-house on the hill, where they found a crowd in and around the building, through which, with slow progress, they arrived at the pulpit and its surroundings. This was a perfect holiday for Townsend and its vicinity. In addition to the multitude standing on the ground looking in at the windows, which were partly open for purposes of ventilation, a stage had been built up at the gallery windows, from which a view of the speakers was obtained, and almost everything heard that was said inside the house, in which every foot of room was occupied. These outsiders were very quiet; not a loud word



was spoken, yet occasionally at the motion of a finger, or a wink, a cord would be dropped down when the fisherman aloft would "get a bite" and up would go a bottle or a flask. Who knows that these were not "smelling bottles" to prevent dizziness at that altitude?

Every house in town was open, and the hospitalities of both the season and the occasion were as free as air. A descendant of Samuel Stone, who built and lived in the house now occupied by Samuel Stone Haynes, informed the writer that one hundred people dined with Mr. Stone on that day, and that twenty-five of them passed the night with him. Most of the prominent men in town were similarly favored with the presence of friends and relatives.

This was the last festival of the kind in which *all* our people participated, for long before Mr. Palmer left the church militant, and before his successor was ordained, it was *my church, my minister, my mode of baptism*, and sectarianism began to unfurl the banner of discord.

Rev. David Palmer was born 1768, at Windham, Connecticut, graduated at Dartmouth College, 1797, was preceptor of New Ipswich Academy, 1798, ordained the third pastor in Townsend, January 1st, 1800, married Chloe Kinsley of his native town, 1794, and died at Townsend, February 15, 1849, aged 81 years.

Townsend at the time of Mr. Palmer's ordination was an entirely different town from what it was when either of his predecessors entered the ministry. The privations attending the converting of a wilderness into a township, filled with the industries and embellishments of civilized life, had all been endured and accomplished. The eventful days of the revolutionary war, through which our fathers struggled and bled, had all taken their places on







*David Palmer*



the historian's page. Our people had just commenced to manipulate metallic federal money, and enter on the enjoyments of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The printing press,

"The mightiest of the mighty means,  
On which the arm of progress leans,"

had approached the town as near as Leominster on one side, and Amherst, New Hampshire, on the other. Education had received a fresh impetus by the establishing of the academies at New Ipswich and Groton, and by more liberal appropriations for the support of common schools. Enterprise and progress were the watchwords at the commencement of the present century.

Everything considered, the town and church made a judicious choice for their third spiritual advisor. Mr. Palmer was decidedly a popular man in all his social relations, and his influence as a townsman was felt particularly by the children and youth of Townsend. During most of his pastorate it was the custom, among their other duties, for the ministers to examine the teachers, and in part, to superintend the schools.

There was not a school in town that did not hail his approach with pleasure. Most of the elderly people in town, who attended school here in Mr. Palmer's time, not only remember the blandness of his countenance, but they still retain pleasant recollections of the method in which he would interest and instruct them in their lessons and duties by some chaste anecdote, or simple story told in a peculiarly appreciable manner.

He entered into the spirit of improvement in all things and never frowned on any legitimate amusement. Music he loved, possessing both a cultivated voice and ear.



At a town meeting in 1806, "Voted to grant Fifty dollars for the support of a singing school this year, and chose a committee to conduct said school." Chose for said committee, Rev. David Palmer, Mr. Peter Manning and Mr. Eliab Going."

Mr. Palmer was also a practical educator outside of the pulpit. About twenty young men fitted for college with him, a part of whom will be noticed in another part of this work.

Mr. Palmer solicited for the money which was paid for the first bell ever hung on any belfry in this town. In the course of the canvass, he spoke to one of his people, an old man bent down by the weight of years, almost to the form of a semi-circle, but possessed of a good amount of wealth. He explained to the old gentleman the object of his visit, setting forth the advantages of having a bell, and in the conversation, he said that every one, and particularly every stranger, who *looked up* and saw a bell in the belfry, would have more respect for Townsend. "I know" said the octogenarian, rolling his head over on one side and casting up one eye to Mr. Palmer, "but I have most done *looking up*." "I should be pleased then if you prefer *looking down*, to have you *look down* into your money purse for a moment." "That can be done," said the old man, handing over three hard dollars to the minister, when they parted in excellent humor.

Mr. Palmer was a successful pastor. During his ministry two hundred and fifty members were added to the church, sixty-two of that number having joined during the year 1826. He studied divinity with Rev. Andrew Lee, of Lisbon, Connecticut. As a preacher, he was rather doctrinal than practical, but interesting, his exercises not being as long as were those of some of his



brethren, who exchanged pulpits with him. A few of his sermons were "published by request of his hearers," one of which was delivered on the twelfth anniversary of his ordination, from the text, "This day shall be for a memorial,"—Exodus 12, 14. This and other printed discourses were written in a clear, forcible style, exhibiting deep thought, good scholarship, and unfeigned piety.

The introduction of unitarianism into New England, and the inauguration of the Harvard Divinity School in 1817, swept away all religious unanimity from among the churches. The cities took the initiative in the crusade against the faith and opinions of Knox and Calvin, but were soon reinforced by most of the large towns in the Commonwealth. This great tidal wave reached Townsend, about 1825. Rev. Mr. Thayer, of Lancaster, was the first preacher of this doctrine here. The unitarians increasing during this time, the town voted to grant the use of the meeting-house to them for a certain number of sabbaths at several times. "Owing to some misunderstanding in regard to the rightful use of the meeting house, one sabbath, both denominations appeared and claimed it; but the unitarians had taken possession." A writer in the interest of the congregationalists thus describes what occurred at that time:—

"Coming into the church one sabbath morning, the pastor found that the unitarians had procured their champion, Rev. Dr. Thayer, of Lancaster, and put him in his place. Walking up in front of the pulpit, Mr. Palmer turned and publicly addressed his people, stating that he felt the pulpit by right belonged to him, but as another had been put in his place, he should not contend with him, nor should he countenance error by remaining. He declared his purpose





to retire to the school house, and such as should follow him, he would preach to there. Immediately as the pastor left the house, he was followed by his flock, like the faithful sheep who knew the voice of their shepherd, till not a member of the church remained behind, and not one of the singers formed the choir.

"The pastor preached to his flock that first sabbath from the text, Nehemiah 6, 11, 'Should such a man as I, flee; and who is there, that being as I am, would go into the temple to save his life; I will not go in.' An examination of this text with the verses following, and a consideration of the use at this time made of them, will reveal the words to have been aptly chosen."

The unitarians asked for the use of the meeting-house one-fourth of the time, or that Mr. Palmer would exchange with ministers of that denomination, or with the universalists, that they might enjoy preaching for that part of the time. To this, Mr. Palmer would have agreed, but some of the leading men of his church objected. The truth is it was generally known, that Mr. Thayer was in town on the evening before Mr. Palmer and his people left the church; that Mr. Palmer was in consultation with Mr. Thayer during the evening; that their meeting was pleasant and agreeable; that then a method, whereby the unitarians were to have a hearing during one-fourth of the time, was agreed upon by these ministers; but that after they had separated, certain influential church members interviewed Mr. Palmer, and squarely objected to the arrangement; and for the sake of effect, the programme, that was carried out the following day, was ordered. Mr. Palmer's text, on arrival at the school-house, is very good proof of a premeditated act. These two ministers had exchanged pulpits several times previous to this time. By



this difficulty, some curious phases of human nature were developed. A short time after this, the congregationalists erected their brick church, repudiated Mr. Palmer, and put in his place an eloquent young man, whom they considered amply qualified to combat unitarianism. On the other hand in almost as brief a time, the unitarians finding themselves masters of the situation so far as the meeting-house was concerned, ordained a minister, took a dislike to him soon after, dismissed him, and, for a time, placed Mr. Palmer back in his old pulpit again.

The conduct of the men of wealth and influence, in the congregational church at that time, towards Mr. Palmer, can never be explained in a manner that will place them in an enviable or even an honorable position. Mr. Palmer never withdrew his connection from the church over which he was ordained, and from which he was dismissed in July, 1830, after a pastorate of thirty and one-half years. After this he preached for some time in Brookline, New Hampshire. Although he was never in indigent circumstances, he was the recipient of many favors from kind-hearted people who sympathized with an elderly gentleman deserted by those who should have been his friends.

As a compliment to his integrity, and from motives of benevolence and respect, he was elected by the town a representative to the General Court in 1833 and 1834. His successor in the ministry also, Rev. Mr. Rogers, extended to him many courtesies and kindnesses during his short pastorate, and although he keenly felt the ingratitude of those who cast him off, still he encountered old age with cheerfulness, and death with the hope of a believer in the doctrine which he had preached.



After 1830 the town in its corporate capacity was not represented by any religious society or minister of the gospel. Previous to that time, unless by special vote of the town, the expenses of preaching were paid by a tax, assessed on all the polls and estates in town. The congregationalists, considering that another church was about to be organized in Townsend, saw that their church must have a more definite name than "The church of Christ in Townsend" (by which name the church under the town's ministers was known), so that February 8, 1830, the church assumed the name, "The Orthodox Congregational Church of Christ in Townsend." A clerk, treasurer and prudential committee, were also chosen about that time.

The first pastor of this church, the REV. WILLIAM MATTICKS ROGERS, was ordained February 16, 1831. Invocation by Rev. Phillips Payson, of Leominster; prayer, by Rev. Charles Walker, of New Ipswich, New Hampshire; sermon by Rev. John Codman, D. D., of Boston; ordaining prayer by Rev. Rufus A. Putnam, of Fitchburg; charge by Rev. Ebenezer Hill, of Mason, New Hampshire; right hand of fellowship by Rev. John Todd, of Groton. This gentleman was born in England, but came to this country in his boyhood under the care of his relatives who carefully superintended his education. He graduated with honor at Harvard University, 1827, and at the Theological Seminary, at Andover, in 1830, where he ranked the first in his class. His father fell at the battle of Waterloo. His name was Kettell, but at the suggestion of one of his uncles, who had been his patron and was about to endow him quite liberally, it was changed by an act of the Legislature to Rogers, his uncle's name.



In a pecuniary point of view he was extremely fortunate. The legacy, a rich wife, and the large salaries he received during the last ten or twelve years of his life brought him wealth in abundance. He married Adelia Strong, daughter of Judge Strong, of Leominster. He possessed little physical force and vitality, but was an active, keen man.

The church made a judicious choice in selecting their first minister. As a sectarian, Mr. Rogers was extremely prudent; and he was much more anxious to build up his own church and society than to pull down that of its opponents, the unitarians. He was a good writer, had a winning address, and was a popular minister. During the four years and five months of his pastorate, one hundred and forty-nine members were admitted to the church. At his request he was dismissed in July, 1835. He removed to Boston and was installed pastor of one of the churches in that city, where he died in 1851.

REV. COLUMBUS SHUMWAY was the second pastor. He was born at Belchertown, graduated at Union College and at Auburn Theological Seminary, and was installed, January 6, 1836. In every particular, he was a respectable preacher. Mr. Shumway must have been placed in a delicate position, and experienced all the difficulties of being the successor of a first-class man. Undoubtedly too much was expected from him. The notice of his dismissal, tendered to him March 28, 1837, was a surprise to him, from the fact that up to that moment, everything on the surface indicated both unanimity and satisfaction.

REV. DAVID STOWELL, born 1804, at Westmoreland, New Hampshire; graduated at Dartmouth College, 1829; was installed third pastor of this church, June 28, 1837.





Mr. Stowell was a man of good intellectual abilities, on account of which he was selected to fill this position. There were some irregularities in his conduct during the latter part of his pastorate, which caused both him and the church considerable excitement and trouble. Two or three ecclesiastical councils were convened to consider the case. At the last council, the opponents of Mr. Stowell secured the services of Rev. John A. Albro, formerly of Fitchburg, to substantiate the charges alleged against him. A lawyer from Boston appeared as counsel for the defence, and the merits of the case were discussed ably and somewhat sharply by both parties. This council, after due deliberation, ordered the dismissal of Mr. Stowell, on the fifteenth of August, 1843. Before coming to Townsend, Mr. Stowell had been settled at New Boston, New Hampshire, where he preached for some time. From Townsend, he went to Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, where he died in 1854.

REV. LUTHER H. SHELDON, the fourth pastor of this church, was born at Easton, 1815; graduated at Middlebury College, 1839; graduated at Andover Theological Seminary, 1842, and ordained, August 15, 1844. Invocation by Rev. Joseph B. Hill, of Mason, New Hampshire; sermon by Rev. R. S. Storrs, of Braintree; ordaining prayer, by Rev. Dudley Phelps, of Groton; charge by Rev. Luther Sheldon, of Easton, (father of the pastor elect); fellowship of the churches by Rev. E. W. Bullard, of Fitchburg. Mr. Sheldon was a very active man, prompt at an appointment, and always prepared for any pastoral work to which duty called him. He took an unusual interest in education, and he served on the school





Rev. Luther H. Sheldon



committee, to the advantage and acceptance of all interested. The abolition of slavery was an object that engrossed his attention. Some of his sermons on that subject were printed. During the anti-slavery excitement, and what was known as the Washingtonian movement in the temperance cause, he was more independent and outspoken than most of his brethren in the ministry. He was a diligent student, a forcible writer, and, although not an orator of the first class, he delivered his sermons in an impressive, intelligible manner. In proof that he not only had the moral and intellectual equipments indispensable to every minister of his denomination, but that he possessed much shrewdness and good judgment, it may be mentioned that he remained pastor of this church more than double the length of time of that of any of his predecessors, and about four times as long as the longest time of any of his successors, during the twenty years that followed after his dismissal. Mr. Sheldon was dismissed, at his own request, March 7, 1856, after a successful pastorate of about twelve years.

After about the usual time spent in "candidating," the REV. ELI W. COOK, a graduate of Yale College, 1837, was chosen pastor of this church, and he was installed on the twenty-eighth day of April, 1858. This Cook did not prepare and dispense "the bread of life" in a manner calculated either to please or edify the people, who looked to him for a good example and a character above reproach. Some irregularities caused his connection with this church to be of short duration. It is probable he was not deficient in either natural ability or education, but he lost the confidence of the church and society and was dismissed



October 12, 1859, his pastorate being less than a year and a half.

REV. MOSES PATTEN was ordained pastor of this church on the seventh of June, 1860. Sermon by Rev. Austin Phelps, of Andover; ordaining prayer by Rev. Theophilus P. Sawin, of Brookline, New Hampshire; charge by Rev. William T. Herrick, of Pelham; fellowship of the churches by Rev. George Moor, of Andover. Mr. Patten was graduated at Dartmouth College, 1850, and at Andover Theological Seminary, in 1855. He was not a fluent speaker, or a man calculated to present a first-class sermon; but he sustained an excellent moral character which won for him the respect of the entire community. Had his intellectual ability been proportional to his wish to do good and his honesty of purpose, perhaps his pastorate would have been longer. He was dismissed April 27th, 1863.

On the twenty-seventh day of August, 1863, the church "Voted to instruct their committee of supply to employ REV. JOHN C. HUTCHINSON as their acting pastor." This gentleman had good abilities, but withal, was rather eccentric. Occasionally his sermons, viewed from either a literary, elocutionary or ecclesiastical stand-point, would not suffer in comparison with those of the popular preachers at that time. Sometimes after reaching near the close of a discourse, to which the most delicate mental organization could take no exceptions, an uncalled-for sentiment or an indiscreet expression would drop from his mouth which would tarnish the entire effort. His remarks at funerals were generally timely, appropriate and well received. The church record has it, that "July 22, 1860,





Mr. Hutchinson preached his farewell sermon and left this field of labor," being acting pastor some less than three years. He was a close student and attended strictly to his own business.

REV. GEORGE WILLIAMS was installed pastor of this church, May 1st, 1867—dismissed February 1st, 1869. Mr. Williams had been a chaplain during the rebellion. It was considered, previous to the time when he left, that he did not give that study of and attention to his duties which his calling demanded.

REV. GEORGE H. MORSS was the successor of Mr. Williams, the church voting to employ him as acting pastor, June 17, 1869. Mr. Morss was born in Lowell, in 1832. He fitted for college at Phillips Academy, Andover, graduating there in 1857. His health failing him, he did not enter college. He went south and spent about a year in teaching among the Choctaw Indians. Having regained his usual health, he returned home and took some of the college studies with a private tutor. He passed the usual three years at Andover Theological Seminary, where he graduated in 1862. Mr. Morss was a quiet, conscientious, amiable man. There was nothing overbearing or dictatorial in his manner or intercourse with his fellow-men. His words were well spoken and well adapted to the occasion which called them out. His sermons were carefully written and sometimes considerably above mediocrity. One of them, a historical discourse, printed by order of the church, and the result of much labor, was well received. He was dismissed, April 10th, 1873. At present, he is located very pleasantly at Clarendon, Vermont.



On the twenty-ninth day of September, 1873, the church "voted to invite REV. HENRY C. FAY to become its acting pastor;" and he immediately accepted the invitation and entered upon his duties with this church and congregation. He was born in Shrewsbury, 1827,—graduated at Leicester Academy, 1850,—graduated at Amherst College, 1854,—graduated at the Theological Seminary, Bangor, 1857. Was ordained at Northwood, New Hampshire, 1858, where he remained six years. He was four years at Newton, two years at Hubbardston, two years at Harwich Port, and three and one-half years at Townsend. He is a live preacher, a close student, having much enterprise and force of character. He has most of the qualities requisite for a leader. If he had been educated at West Point, instead of Bangor, he probably would have succeeded well under "shoulder-straps." Considered as a writer, or a speaker, he is well cultivated and appears to good advantage. He was dismissed in September, 1876.

Three or four candidates appeared, in turn, to preach for the congregationalists, during the next six months, when sometime in the summer of 1877, the church extended a unanimous call to Albert F. Newton to become their pastor. He accepted the call, and was ordained on the fifth of September, 1877.

REV. ALBERT F. NEWTON was born at Salmon Falls, New Hampshire, in 1848; graduated at Appleton Academy, New Ipswich, New Hampshire, 1870; graduated at Dartmouth College, 1874; graduated at Andover Theological Seminary, 1877. The clergymen of the council, who took a part in his ordination, were as follows: invocation



by Rev. Daniel E. Adams, of Ashburnham; sermon by James H. Thayer, D. D., of Andover; ordaining prayer by Rev. Marcus Ames, of Lancaster; charge by Rev. George Pierce, of Milford, New Hampshire; fellowship of the churches by Rev. J. H. Barrows, of Lawrence; address to the people by Rev. F. D. Sargent, of Brookline, New Hampshire. The day was beautiful, and many joyous faces lighted up the large assembly that witnessed these exercises. Mr. Newton has zealously entered upon his labors under favorable auspices, and in the lives of most of his predecessors, he may find patterns worthy of his imitation.

The congregationalists, during the year 1877, erected a set of buildings suitable for a parsonage, the result of the untiring efforts of the Ladies' Benevolent Society, connected with this denomination. The land on which the buildings stand was the gift of Deacon Walter Haynes. The dwelling, for the convenience of its internal arrangements, its general good proportions, and the faithful manner in which it is completed, is a source of credit to the committee which superintended its erection.

As the parsonage house, given to the town by "Lieut. Amos Whitney," in 1769, although renovated and wrought into another structure, has escaped the corroding, devouring elements, and come down to us through the lapse of more than a century, so may this elegant, unostentatious house stand, to become the pleasant abode for pastors yet unborn, who in their turn, shall "bring glad tidings" to the on-coming generations. It is a happy thought that this church has furnished a suitable residence for its pastor, situated so convenient to the church edifice.



Names of the deacons during the time the church was a town institution :

JOSEPH STEVENS,	appointed,	1734,	died,	1738.
ISAAC SPAULDING,	"	1734,	"	1776.
SAMUEL CLARK,	"	1738,	"	1783.
JONATHAN STOW,	"	1763,	"	1780.
* RICHARD WYER,	"	1773,	"	1812.
JAMES HOSLEY,	"	1778,	"	——.
JONATHAN WHEELOCK,	"	1782,	"	——.
DANIEL ADAMS,	"	1782,	"	1827.
JOHN GILES,	"	1812,	"	1825.
JOHN BOUTELL,	"	1812,	"	1860.

Names of the deacons who continued with the congregationalists at their separation from the town and those who were appointed by them afterwards :

JOEL ADAMS,	appointed,	1824,	died,	1854.
DANIEL GILES,	"	1828,	"	1858.
† SAMUEL WALKER,	"	1828,	"	1859.
JOHN SPAULDING,	"	1845,	"	1866.
JOHN PROCTOR,	"	1845.		
ABIJAH BLOOD,	"	1870.		
WALTER HAYNES,	"	1875.		
SAMUEL F. WARREN,	"	1875.		
AMBROSE G. STICKNEY,	"	1875.		

When the congregationalists seceded from what was the first parish in Townsend, they took with them every member of the church, the communion cups and baptismal

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\* Deacon Wyer fell while planing a board and died almost instantly.

† Deacon Walker fell while at work in the hay-field and died suddenly of heart disease. He withdrew from the orthodox church and joined the baptists, about fifteen years previous to his death.





basin; no one appearing to object, and no one that remained having any use for these things. It must not be taken for granted, that either party to this controversy, during these exciting times, could lay claim to all the consistency or amiability. No one can deny, when comparing the opinions and faith of the trinitarians of the present time, with the printed discourses and doctrines of their clergy of fifty years ago, but that a more rational faith, a more Christ-like spirit has taken possession of the minds and hearts of these disciples of Knox and Calvin. One might attend church anywhere, now, without hearing anything of the doctrines of foreordination, predestination or election, each of which was extensively preached by the clergy, previous to the advent of unitarianism.

It may appear singular, that a part of the town at that time, making no pretensions to religion, should insist on the use of the meeting-house a part of the time; but it must be considered, that the people asked for something more than the dry dogmas of the school in which their pastor had been educated. This they would have had (for Mr. Palmer kept up with the spirit of the times), but for an undue influence, exerted by the same individuals, who eventually cast him off and put Mr. Rogers in his place.

The most prominent men left in 1829, to represent the first parish, were Paul Gerrish, Aaron Keys, Richard W. Pierce, Solomon Jewett, Isaac Turner, Benjamin Barrett, Jr., Jonathan Richardson, and John Preston. Two of these persons were lawyers, all of them men of influence and intelligence, of good morals, and the fathers of the town, but to all appearances not particularly pious.



The parsonage given to the town by Lieut. Asa Whitney, by act of the Legislature, passed into the hands of the unitarians. There were not any regular meetings of this society on the sabbath, or much preaching for some time after the "orthodox" built their house.

REV. WARREN BURTON was preacher for the first parish for a part of the year 1831. Allow the writer, just here to say, that Warren Burton was a clear-headed man, an excellent scholar, interesting as an author, attractive as a preacher, and by far the ablest minister who preached for this society. He graduated at Harvard College, 1821, died 1866, after a life of usefulness.

For the next three years REV. JESSE CHICKERING was the preacher for a part of the time. Occasionally the pulpit was supplied by universalists and restorationists. During the year 1835, there was not much preaching. The treasurer's book of this society does not show that any money was paid for preaching during this year.

REV. EZEKIEL L. BASCOM, commenced preaching in the winter of 1836, and continued till the end of the summer, during which time he gathered a church, consisting of about twenty-five members. Mr. Bascom was a man of prepossessing appearance, of good address, social in his manners, spoke easily and logically, without notes, and his labors were highly appreciated by this denomination. He was an active preacher of the gospel, after this time, at Ashby. Graduated at Dartmouth College, 1798, died at Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, April, 1841, aged 63, and was buried at Ashby.



During the autumn of 1836, LINUS H. SHAW, preached as a candidate for the office of pastor of this church and society for four or five sabbaths, when he received a call for a settlement, which he accepted. He was ordained, December 21st, 1836. The following was the programme carried out on this occasion: Prayer by Rev. Nathaniel Whitman; sermon by Rev. Andrew P. Peabody, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire; charge by Rev. Samuel Barrett, of Boston; right hand of fellowship by Rev. Charles Babbidge, of Pepperell; address by Rev. Calvin Lincoln. There was a drenching rain throughout the whole day, and for this reason, there was not a large audience in attendance. Rev. Linus H. Shaw was a graduate of Harvard Divinity School, 1833. For some reason, the mantle of the man who gathered and founded this church did not fall upon this young pastor, for although he was a gentleman of unsullied moral character, a good thinker and a good writer, yet, there was something lacking in his social qualities, whereby he was never popular with his church and congregation. One great obstacle in the way of his success, was, that every time he attempted an extemporaneous address, he made a complete failure. For a man of his experience, he wrote good sermons and read them quite well, but "his occupation was gone" unless his thoughts were fully submitted to writing. After a pastorate of about two years, his connection with this parish was dissolved, and he moved out of town.

From this time till 1852, when the first parish sold the meeting-house to the methodist society, the unitarians had no settled minister. Occasionally, the universalists and restorationists, as well as the unitarians, occupied the



pulpit. A gentleman by the name of SAYWARD labored here the longest of any one from 1840 till the sale of the meeting-house. When the universalists built their meeting-house at West Townsend, the people in the westerly part of the town, who usually attended the unitarian church, withdrew from that society and associated with the universalists. The most influential members of the first parish, by this move, were found to be residents of the easterly part of the town. There were two meeting-houses at the centre of the town, and two at the west village, so that the influence of the Harbor in asking for one church building, caused the sale of the old meeting-house to be effected.

The meeting-house at the Harbor was built according to written contract, by John Hart and Amos Morse, in 1853. Daniel G. Bean, of Lowell, was the architect. Perhaps the shade of Sir Christopher Wren never hovers over this edifice without hastening to Lowell to salute this "cunning artificer." This house was dedicated in the spring of 1854.

REV. STILLMAN BARBER was hired to preach by the unitarians, about that time, and supplied the pulpit for some more than two years, when, for some reasons, best known to the unitarians themselves, no money was raised to support the preaching of the gospel. Mr. Barber left town, and all interest in the denomination melted like an April snow wreath. Since that time, with the exception of one or two law-suits growing out of some financial matters, and the settlement of its affairs generally, nothing of late, has been heard of "The First Parish in Townsend." The fathers of this denomination have been gathered to the innumerable multitude of the departed, and





the temple of worship erected by their sons, now stands deserted, cheerless, and seldom entered for any purpose whatever.

For two years previous to the time that the unitarians sold their house to the methodists, its walls echoed the ringing appeals of two earnest methodist clergymen, Rev. Horace Moulton and Rev. Samuel Tupper.

REV. HORACE MOULTON was the pioneer methodist of Townsend; he seemed peculiarly adapted for an evangelistic pioneer work; revivals had attended his labors in nearly forty towns, before he came to Townsend. His biographer says: "He probably organized more methodist churches from converts saved through his instrumentality, the last half century, than any other minister of our conference." In 1849, he was stationed in Lunenburg, but he never seemed satisfied unless he was engaged in revival work, so he got his place supplied one-half of the time, and preached in Townsend and Pepperell. He organized a class in Townsend, that year, as a branch of the church at Lunenburg. In 1850, Townsend became a separate charge.

In April, 1852, REV. SAMUEL TUPPER, preacher in charge, organized the Methodist Episcopal Society, in conformity with the provisions of the statutes of Massachusetts. From 1850, until the present time, 1877, this society has sustained preaching and weekly religious meetings. Considerable interest has been manifested from time to time, and numbers added to the church. The revival that



attended the labors of I. T. Johnson, the evangelist, that commenced in January, 1876, was the most extensive the church ever experienced. The membership of the church at that time was forty-four; the membership the first of January, 1877, was one hundred and twelve, and seventy probationists.

During the history of this church it has enjoyed the services of eighteen different pastors of various degrees of ability and spirituality. Their names and order of succession are as follows:—

Horace Moulton, Samuel Tupper, Pliny Wood, Windsor Ward, J. A. Ames, T. B. Treadwell, A. F. Bailey, M. P. Webster, C. H. Hanaford, S. K. Bailey, Burtis Judd, E. A. Howard, A. K. Howard, T. R. Tisdale, E. Burrillingham, A. P. Adams, A. W. Baird, W. E. Dwight.

The first three gentlemen mentioned in this list are dead; they were men of influence with their denomination. Mr. Ward died in Townsend and was buried here.



## CHAPTER IV.

### *THE BAPTISTS AND UNIVERSALISTS.*

Formation of the Baptist Society in 1818—Inauguration of the Church in 1827—Levi Ball Chosen Deacon—Action of the Town in Favor of the Baptist—Pastorate of Rev. James Barnaby—Concise Memoir of Mr. Barnaby—Some Account of the Successors of Mr. Barnaby—Pastorate of Rev. Willard P. Upham—The Universalist Restoration Society—Rev. John Pierce—Committee to Build a Meeting-house—Mention of the Several Pastors of this Society.

The following are among the first entries in the records of the baptist society in Townsend:—

"Be it remembered that April 20, 1818, Asa Baldwin, Joseph Walker, Thomas Weston and Solomon Stevens, who were members of the churches of New Ipswich, Mason and Harvard and others, met and formed ourselves into a society by the name of The first Baptist Society of Townsend.

"Since the formation of said society, we have had occasional preaching by Rev. William Elliott and others."

In 1827, the Rev. Benjamin Dean "labored here as a missionary under the direction of the domestic Baptist Missionary Society of Massachusetts."

In April of that year, this society decided to be formed into a church, and in order to accomplish this object, they



instructed Mr. Dean to call an ecclesiastical council by addressing letters to the neighboring Baptist churches. The letter sent to New Ipswich (which is spread on the records) was as follows:—

“To the Baptist Church of Christ at New Ipswich:

“The Baptist society of Townsend send christian love, Beloved Brethren. Sensible of the importance of exhibiting the light of the Glorious Gospel of peace, in all its doctrines and ordinances as they were delivered to the saints, and viewing ourselves incapacitated in our present situation to attend to the ordinances regularly, and having a prospect of being enlarged in numbers, have voted unanimously that it is expedient to invite our brethren to visit us and in an ecclesiastical council on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May next, and should you see cause, after having examined our situation, to constitute us into a visible Gospel Church.

BENJAMIN DEAN

LEVI BALL

JOSEPH WALKER

SOLOMON STEVENS”

The churches in the towns of New Ipswich, Mason and Milford in the state of New Hampshire, and Chelmsford, Harvard and Littleton, in Massachusetts, were represented in this council by a pastor and delegate. The fourth resolution adopted by this council was the following:—

“4. Resolved that we humbly trust that we have the approbation of the great Head of the church in acknowledging Brethren and Sisters, Asa Baldwin, Joseph Walker, Solomon Stevens, Joseph Simonds, Levi Ball, Susanna Holt, Chloe Ball, Elizabeth Stevens, Unity Manning,





Lucy Ball, Chloe Stevens, Almira Stevens, and their associates. The First Baptist Church of Christ in Townsend, and under this impression, we cheerfully fellowship them as such."

On the same day Levi Ball was chosen deacon of this church, and regularly ordained by the council. The ministers, who constituted this council, were Rev. Joseph Elliott, of New Ipswich, Rev. Bela Wilcox, of Mason, Rev. Samuel Everett, of Milford, New Hampshire, Rev. John Parkhurst, of Chelmsford, Rev. Abisha Sampson, of Harvard, and Rev. Amasa Sanderson, of Littleton. Mr. Sampson, was moderator, and Mr. Sanderson, scribe.

These ministers in particular were invited to participate in this council because most of the persons who asked for the inauguration of this new church were members of the churches in their several towns.

The business of the council being completed, "Voted to adjourn to the congregational church, at 2 o'clock, for services." At that time and place, Levi Ball was ordained deacon of this church, by the reverend gentlemen of the council, with considerable "pomp and ceremony," each and all of these ministers taking some part in the services.

It is certain that no better man than Mr. Ball could have been chosen and ordained to fill this office. The ancestors of Mr. Ball came from Wiltshire, England. He was the grandson of Ebenezer Ball, who was the second child born (1729) in Townsend. He was an industrious, enterprising man, and greatly interested in the success of the baptist church and society. He died in 1849.

There were two or three families in Townsend, of the baptist faith, about the commencement of the present century. These people were obliged, by law, to pay a



regular tax for the support of the town's minister, besides being under a moral obligation to contribute towards baptist preaching in the towns from whence they came.

At the annual town meeting, in March, 1805, the year after the present old meeting-house at the Centre was built, this article was in the town warrant:—

"Article 7th. To see if the town will consider the baptists, in regard to their paying taxes towards the meeting-house and levelling the common."

On this article, "Voted to abate Joseph Walker's poll tax in a tax called the glass tax, and one-half of his poll tax in a town tax of nine hundred dollars in Seth Lewis' tax list."

The town also "considered the baptists" inasmuch as to grant them the use of the meeting-house a certain number of sabbaths during the year, for quite a number of consecutive years. Usually their meetings were (previous to 1834) held in what was the battery school-house, where they had services part of the time, but not constant preaching.

The church record for May 20th, 1833, shows the following: "Chose REV. CALEB BROWN our pastor." This gentleman labored until the summer of 1835. The baptist meeting-house having been dedicated during the early part of the previous winter, and the church being increased some in numbers, so that the surroundings and circumstances began to be more favorable to this denomination, an effort was made to secure the services of some one distinguished in the baptist denomination, for their pastor.

In June of this year the church gave REV. JAMES BARNABY, pastor of the second baptist church in Lowell,



an invitation to settle with them at the annual salary of five hundred dollars. There is nothing in the church records concerning his installation here, but the time of his coming is recorded: "Sept. 28, 1835, Mr. Barnaby removed among us and entered on his labors." A large number comparatively attended the meetings during Mr. Barnaby's pastorate, but there was no special revival. In 1836, the church contained thirty-seven members. Mr. Barnaby at that time, was of prepossessing appearance and pleasing address. After the short pastorate of about two years, for certain reasons he asked his dismissal, which was rather reluctantly granted, both pastor and church being much attached to each other. He was dismissed October 8, 1837, when he removed to Harwich, where he was installed over the oldest baptist church in that part of the state. Since that time he has been settled at Deerfield, New Hampshire, where he occupied a parsonage, the buildings of which were burned, together with nearly all of his personal property. He has also had a pastorate in five or six other places. He was born at Freetown, June 25th, 1787; graduated at Brown University, 1809, died December 10th, 1877, at Harwich, leaving a widow six months his senior, with whom he lived sixty-seven years, each of which was devoted to the Master's service. He was an earnest, successful pastor at every place where he labored, and during the latter part of his life, from the deference paid to him by all denominations he was called, the "Bishop of the Cape." A notice of him at his death says: "He baptized about two thousand eight hundred persons, four hundred of whom he received into the fellowship of this church;" meaning the baptist church, at Harwich, of which he was pastor at the time of his death.



REV. OREN TRACY, was the next minister. He came from Newport, New Hampshire, to this town, and commenced his labors February 3, 1838. There was a very pleasant intercourse between Mr. Tracy and this church and people. A baptist church in Fitchburg, being favorably impressed by Mr. Tracy, gave him a call with an offer of a larger salary, when "his duty" pointing in that direction, he asked his dismissal in January, 1841, and soon departed to that place.

In the spring of 1841, the church gave a call to REV. CHARLES W. REDING, who was regularly installed soon after. He remained till July, 1844, when the society "Voted that the pastoral connection between Rev. Mr. Reding and this church and society be dissolved." He was a polished man.

REV. W. C. RICHARDS, was the successor of Mr. Reding. He was the pastor for two or three years, when the services of REV. CALEB BLOOD were secured for about two years. He was grandson of his namesake, who was a distinguished man in the baptist denomination.

REV. F. G. BROWN commenced preaching for the baptists in 1850. REV. LESTER WILLIAMS, REV. E. A. BATTELL and REV. F. G. BROWN supplied the pulpit, each one about an equal length of time, from 1850 to 1860. Mr. Williams, although a young man, was a capable, earnest preacher, and gave perfect satisfaction.

REV. GEORGE W. RYAN entered upon the labors of pastor of this church in 1860, and continued about three years. Mr. Ryan took considerable interest in education,





and served on the school committee, in which office he was well received. The baptist pulpit has been supplied at different times by the theological students at Newton, for months at a time.

REV. WILLARD P. UPHAM was pastor from 1867 to 1872, or about six years. He was for a long time associated with the Cherokee Indians as missionary and teacher, and afterwards, as pastor of the church connected with that intelligent tribe. He had considerable experience also at other places at the west. His pastorate was the longest of any person in the ministry who has labored with the baptists. Mr. Upham was an acceptable pastor, a diligent student, and a social gentleman. He was an invalid for sometime after leaving this town. He died in 1877.

REV. OREN K. HUNT, a graduate of Newton Theological Seminary, was installed pastor of this church in June, 1874, and he remained until the spring of 1877, when he was followed by REV. WILLIAM R. THOMPSON, who is the present pastor.

In looking over the large number of pastors which this church has had during the half of a century of its existence, the question naturally arises, why has it had so many? No difficulties have ever disturbed this church by having Kallocks or Beechers for pastors. There always has been extreme unanimity among the church members, its friends and patrons, still the pastorates of its ministers average less than three years, which certainly is at variance with the customs of the fathers, who took *their* ministers, like their wives, "*during life*." If a clergyman has



integrity of character, piety, learning, and scope of intellect sufficient to make himself acceptable to any church for three years, why cannot he continue to do so for five times three years?

The records of the baptist church are so meagre and incomplete, that it is impossible to give as many facts and dates as are desirable. From the time of its formation to the present, it has annually been in receipt of pecuniary aid from the same society, which, in 1827, placed Mr. Dean in the missionary field.

The Universalist Restoration Society, at West Townsend, was organized March 4th, 1848. The first disciples of Murray, at this village, however, had enjoyed meetings for nearly ten years, previous to that time. During the year 1839, REV. JOHN PIERCE, a native of Lunenburg, was invited to preach to this society. This youthful minister supplied the pulpit here on alternate sabbaths for more than a year. He was a ready, extemporaneous speaker, agreeable in his person, and rather attractive in his manner of address. He died the next year, of consumption, much lamented by his friends and the denomination with which he was connected.

At the time this society was organized, it was "Voted to take measures to build a meeting-house," and chose a "committee of eleven to carry the same into effect." Chose Zimri Sherwin, Stephen Dyer, Benjamin Barrett, Levi Sherwin, William Nichols, Albert Howe, Joel Kendall, Ebenezer Rawson, Luke Wellington, Andrews Howe and John Whitcomb for said committee.

At an adjourned meeting "Voted that the building committee issue one hundred and twenty shares, at twenty-five dollars a share, for building a meeting house," the



committee to hold those shares in their hands as security for their payment. It was intended that the money that accrued from the sale of the pews should, in the end, pay for a large portion of the expense of building the meeting-house. This house was finished in 1848.

After the church building was completed, it was ascertained that there were about forty regular paying families of this society (a part of which number belonged to Ashby), so that it was a comparatively easy matter to raise the \$400 for a minister's salary. Of these forty families, only a few are now among the people here, and many are not to be found among the living.

This meeting-house was built by Mr. Levi Sherwin, and it was dedicated January 25, 1849. Rev. Stillman Clark, of East Jaffrey, New Hampshire, preached an appropriate sermon, which was well received by a full house.

There never was a universalist church, which worshipped in this building, but in its stead "The Universalist Restoration Society." The REV. STILLMAN CLARK was the first pastor of this society. He was here at first, about a year, when REV. VARNUM LINCOLN succeeded him for about two years, when Mr. Clark returned and supplied the pulpit for a year or more. Both of these pastors were acceptable preachers, and both of them were honored by the town with seats on the board of school committee.

In 1853, this society employed a man by the name of R. J. CHAPMAN, who remained here for nearly two years, before the wolf in sheep's clothing was discovered.

In June, 1855, REV. C. C. CLARK was settled as pastor over this restorationist society. This engagement continued



four years. After being absent in Pennsylvania until 1863, he returned to West Townsend, and again preached for the same society, about two years and a half, when the connection closed by mutual consent. During all this time, to the present (1877), Mr. Clark has kept his home in West Townsend, where he now resides with his companion, who has been a faithful help-meet through all the trials and struggles of a ministry of thirty-five years.

Since the close of Mr. Clark's pastorate, there has been no preaching for the universalist society, except at two or three different times during the holidays; yet the people who constituted this society, who are still among the living, consider that there is much more liberality among other denominations, than there was twenty-eight years ago, when the Universalist Restoration Society, in West Townsend, was founded.





## CHAPTER V.

### *MEETING-HOUSES.*

The First Meeting-house and its Location—"Pew Ground"—"Seating the Meeting-house"—Controversy about the Location of the Second Meeting-house—Memoirs of John Hale, Oliver Prescott and John Dunsmoor, the Committee Chosen to Locate this House—Names of the Pew Holders in the Second Meeting-house—Action of the Town in Regard to Moving the Second Meeting-house to its Present Location at the Central Village—The First Bell in Town—The Congregational Meeting-house—The Baptist Meeting-house.

It has been heretofore mentioned, that the settlers did not strictly conform to the terms of the grant of 1719, in several particulars. The "convenient house for the Worship of God" was not built either at Turkey Hills (Lanenburg), or at The North Town, until nearly ten years after these two towns were granted. The condition was that meeting-houses should be built within four years from the date of the grant.

In September, 1728, the town of Lanenburg voted to raise the sum of £200 (\$88.88) for building and finishing a meeting-house, "so far as it will do or answer therefor." In 1731, a pulpit and "a body of seats" were built in this house, which was forty-five feet long and thirty-five feet wide.



The Townsend records of this period are lost, but from this account of the transactions in Lunenburg, it may be inferred that our house of worship was of similar size and value. It was a mere shell. The amount, £15, which the proprietors voted to raise, to "ease the hard bargain" of the contractors, when reduced to federal money, is only about \$3.90, from which fact it may be inferred that the meeting-house in Townsend could not have been very expensive. Money was quite scarce at that time, and most business was transacted by barter trades.

As has been shown by Samuel Danforth's report to the Great and General Court, our meeting-house was erected before 1730, so that both of these towns erected houses of worship at about the same time.

The first meeting-house in Townsend was located on the summit of the hill, about a mile easterly of the common at the centre of the town, on the west side of the road leading over the hill, in the extreme northeast corner of land, now enclosed at that part, by stone walls, with the parsonage left by Lieut. Amos Whitney. A portion of the land that was the town's common when this house was built, is now enclosed with the parsonage farm at that corner, and some of the coarser stones of the foundation of this house, may now be seen in the walls at that place.

It is a singular circumstance, that there never were more than two or three frame houses on this hill, near the spot which the town had selected for its religious and municipal centre:

The prospect, from this stand-point, is exceedingly beautiful and picturesque. Large portions of the towns of Lunenburg and Groton at the south and southeast, with the steeples, landscapes and white farm-houses of these old



towns; together with the hills and mountain slopes, at the west and northwest, dotted over with dwellings, fields and forests, all present a charming panorama. This location must have had peculiar attractions for our ancestors, as this house of worship was placed more than two miles from the centre of the town as it was incorporated.

A pulpit and some body seats were made in this house soon after the church was gathered. In February, 1735, the "pew ground" was laid out, and the committee appointed to do this work "Being again meet together preferred men to their pitches as followeth."

Then follow the names of the most prominent men of the town, "Capt. John Stevens" being the first name recorded. The following extract from the record will sufficiently explain the language above quoted:—

"Voted that the rule that the committee chosen to lay out the pew ground in the meeting-house in Townshend shall be as follows (viz) that they shall prefer those persons in said town to their choice of pew ground, that have paid the most towards the preaching of the Gospel, in said town, and towards building the meeting-house."

For about half a century after the town was chartered, a committee was chosen, at each annual town meeting, in March, to seat the meeting-house, sometimes called "dignifying the meeting-house." Two rows of long, plain benches, with an aisle in the centre leading from the pulpit to the front of the house, and passage ways around the walls of the building, constituted the seating accommodations of the ground floor of the first meeting-house.

The seats nearest to the minister were considered the most eligible. The "committee chosen to lay out the pew



ground" at that time was the committee chosen to seat the meeting-house. Several times, the town instructed their committee in the manner the house was to be seated.

Persons who paid the most towards preaching were allowed "the uppermost seats in the synagogue." The selectmen, deacons of the church, and other officers of acknowledged rank, generally had the first seats. A town in this vicinity "Voted that the committee be instructed to seat the meeting-house according to quality."

From this it may be inferred that even in the days of the puritans, there was an aristocracy; for this word "quality" signified nothing else except the degree of wealth and good clothes which these worshippers possessed. So far as the apparel was concerned, this was a good rule according to the maxim, "cleanliness is next to Godliness."

The custom of leaving the meeting-house in those days, and long afterwards, was quite commendable. After the benediction, the minister would walk out of the house, gracefully bowing to the people on both sides of the aisle, hat in hand, all remaining standing; then the deacons would follow their pastor, and after they had passed nearly out the congregation would quietly leave without any noise or confusion. It is said that this practice had its origin from the fact that the people regarded it as a matter of disrespect to turn their backs upon the clergy. However this might have been, the exits of these congregations would strike any orderly person much more favorably, than the present careless and jostling manner in which our churches are vacated at the close of service.

The following extracts from the town records will show that this house was rude in the extreme, and never finished. A building of this kind would not well comport





with our ideas of a church edifice; but considering that this was the first building in town that was covered with sawed lumber, all of which was brought from Groton, and the scanty means and small number of inhabitants the town contained one hundred and forty-six years ago, it may be fairly supposed, that this house was the result of an extraordinary effort.

In May, 1751, "Secondly, voted to finish two seats round in the gallery and place two pillars under the gallery sills. Thirdly, voted to choose a committee of three men to finish the same."

In 1753, "Voted to sell the pew ground in the southeast corner of the meeting-house at a vandue; the same being sold to John Stevens Junr.: he being the highest bidder, for twenty pounds old tenor."

In 1759, or about thirty years after the house was built, "Voted to grant the ground where the platform is now laid in the front gallery of the meeting-house, to Jonathan Patt and others to build a pew on, provided they build the same and seal up the four side of the meeting-house between the stairs up to the plait by the first of September next."

In 1763, a window was made back of the pulpit, and at the same town meeting which ordered the window, "Voted to give Capt. Daniel Taylor and Lieut. Emery £6 13s. 4d. to lath and plaster and whitewash the meeting-house overhead." Rescinded this vote in 1769.

In 1768, "Voted to give liberty to William Stevens and others petitioners with him to build a pew in the meeting-house over the mens stairs."

The men occupied the west gallery and the women the east, hence "the mens stairs." It thus appears that



this first meeting-house was never finished. There was no ceiling or plastering overhead, and but little of either kind of finish on the inner walls. At this time the house needed considerable repairs and was too small to accommodate the congregation that went to hear the sound of the gospel as proclaimed by Rev. Mr. Dix, so that in May, 1769, the town "Voted to build a new meeting-house within thirty feet north of the old one if that will accommodate better."

Previous to the time that it was found necessary to build a new meeting-house, there was complete unanimity among the people of Townsend. The combativeness of its citizens had nearly spent itself, in the controversy with Dunstable about the dividing line, but at this period considerable feeling, among themselves, was manifested in regard to the location of the new meeting-house. The south part of the town wanted the house to be located on the southerly side of the hill, near the parsonage, while the north part were anxious to have it at the north side of the hill, near the burying ground; others thought that the new house should be located where the old one stood.

From May to October, 1769, the merits of these two chosen places were discussed quite freely and with considerable excitement. There was about an equal number on each side, and finding it almost impossible to agree upon a site upon which to build their meeting-house, it was decided to refer the matter to three disinterested men, and their decision was to be final and binding in every particular.

October 12, 1769, "Voted to choose a committee of three men to state the place where a new meeting-house shall be; whether at or near where the old meeting-house



now stands or at either of the places that shall be appointed by the north or south part of inhabitants of said town, on said meeting house hill. Chosen for said committee John Heald Esq. of Hollis, Doctor Prescott of Groton and Doctor Densmore of Lunenburg."

This meeting adjourned till October 31st, when the committee of doctors, who healed this fracture, appeared and submitted the following report, which was accepted and adopted:—

"The subscribers, a committee appointed by the inhabitants of the Town of Townshend at a legal town meeting holden October 12, 1769 for the purpose within mentioned, have this day attended upon the business, and having fully heard all parties concerned, and duly considered of the affair, are of the opinion that it will be most ornamental for the Town, and most convenient for the inhabitants thereof, to set the front sill of the new meeting house, sixteen feet from the back sill of the old meeting house, or thereabouts, which we submit to said town for their acceptance.

"Townshend Oct. 31, 1769

JOHN HALE	} Committee"
OLIVER PRESCOTT	
JOHN DENSMOOR	

It would appear on the face of this report, that the removal of the location only sixteen feet, needed some explanation. A flat, broad ledge, of the peculiar kind of rock on this hill, cropped out just at the front of the old meeting-house, over which the travel had passed for more than forty years. The slight difference of sixteen feet would leave the ledge in the form of a terrace in front of the new meeting-house. This also explains the language



of the record, "Voted to build a new meeting-house within thirty feet north of the old one, *if that will accommodate better.*"

It may be interesting to know who these men were who chose this location, and in whom the good people of Townsend placed such unreserved confidence. The following memoir of John Hale is from Kidder's History of the First New Hampshire Continental Regiment:—

JOHN HALE was in early life settled in Hollis, New Hampshire, as a physician. In 1755, he was surgeon's mate in Col. Blanchard's First New Hampshire regiment, in an expedition to Crown Point against the French, and in 1758, was surgeon in Col. Hart's regiment, which was at the Crown Point expedition of that year. In 1768, he was representative to the Legislature from the associated towns of Hollis and Dunstable, and at the beginning of the Revolution, he was colonel of a regiment of militia, composed of soldiers from Hollis and the adjoining towns. He was a member of the convention that sat at Exeter, in April, 1775, and assisted in inaugurating the measures to organize the regiments that fought at Bunker Hill, and was also in the field a large part of that year. His sister (Abigail Hale,) was the wife of Col. Prescott, the hero of Bunker Hill, and as their residences were only three miles apart, their intercourse was frequent and always friendly. During 1775 and 1776, he was much engaged in aiding the cause by raising soldiers as well as assisting in the councils of the State. On the re-organization of the First New Hampshire Regiment he was appointed surgeon, and entered on his duty May 8, 1777. It is supposed that most of the regiment was then at Ticonderoga, or on the way





there. He was with the regiment, through the campaigns and battles of that year and the next, and in the expedition to the Indian country in 1779. Resigned June 11th, 1780. Returning home his influence was exerted in raising men and means till the end of the war. He was often a member of the Legislature. He was distinguished as a physician and had a large practice.

The following is the inscription on his tombstone at Hollis:—

ERECTED TO THE MEMORY OF

DOCTOR JOHN HALE.

Who was born Oct. 24, 1731,

And died Oct. 22, 1791.

"How soon our new-born light attains full aged noon,  
And then how soon the gray haired night.  
We spring, we bud, we blossom and we blast,  
Ere we can count our days, they fly so fast."

OLIVER PRESCOTT was the son of Hon. Benjamin Prescott, who has been partially sketched in another part of this work, born at Groton, 1731, and was graduated at Harvard College, 1750. He settled in Groton, and was a practical physician in that town for nearly half a century. He was very successful and popular in that profession. For the period of thirteen years he was town clerk of Groton. He held many civil offices. He was appointed by the King major in the militia, then lieutenant-colonel and colonel. When the revolutionary war broke out he espoused the cause of freedom, and early in the year 1776, he was



appointed brigadier-general, and he mustered and organized the militia of Middlesex county. His judgment on military matters was very valuable at that time. In 1778, he was appointed the third major-general of the militia throughout the commonwealth. In 1799 he received the appointment of Judge of Probate for the county of Middlesex, which office he held until his death in 1804. He was the most influential man in this vicinity and well worthy of being a brother of the hero of Bunker Hill. He was learned without ostentation, popular without being a demagogue, and extremely prepossessing in his appearance, apparently without knowing it.

JOHN DUNSMOOR was born in Scotland, in 1720. He had some of the advantages of the literary institutions of his native country, but probably neither his culture in general, or his preparation in particular, for the profession of his choice, entitled him to a high rank. A correspondent says of him: "He was a remarkable man." He came to this country in his early manhood, and soon after settled in Lunenburg, where he resided till his death, in 1794. He possessed excellent natural abilities, joined with a good amount of perseverance. He was very eccentric withal, and occasionally put on a rough deportment almost repulsive. He had a large practice and was considered not only a very skilful physician but a good surgeon.

May 28, 1770, "Voted to choose a committee to carry on the affair of raising the new meeting-house. Voted that this committee be directed to provide jins and roaps nesenary for the same, also to choose such hands to raise the same as they think proper, and to make suitable provisions for their entertainment, and to provide some person



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that can splise roaps if they brake, all at the towns cost. Voted that the committee find licker Monday and Tuesday at the towns cost."

This house was finished so far that it was occupied during the latter part of 1771. Among the list of baptisms by Rev. Mr. Dix, this is recorded: "Oct. 27, 1771, Baptized Gaius, son of Eleazer Spaulding, in y<sup>e</sup> new meeting house."

This is the only instance where any meeting or ceremony is represented as having occurred in the new meeting-house. This edifice was a great improvement on the house for which it was substituted, it being amply capacious for the population of the town, which, according to the colonial census of 1770, contained about seven hundred inhabitants. The precaution in regard to raising this building was timely and judicious, considering the heavy square timber used in the frame thereof, some of which may now be seen beneath the roof of the old meeting-house on the common. This house was clapboarded, and the window, and door frames and the doors, were painted on the outside during the summer of 1771.

October 20, 1772, "Voted that those persons who purchased the pews on the lower floor of the meeting house, should have their names recorded on the town book, and the number of the pew they drew, which stands in course as they drew them."

It appears that thirty-five citizens shared equally in the expense of making as many pews on the ground floor of this house, and in regard to a choice in them, the owners agreed to decide the matter by "casting lots." Considering that these men were the "solid men" of Townsend, one hundred years ago, and that their descendants constitute quite a number of the inhabitants of this town at





the present time, it has been considered in good taste to copy their names and titles as they are on record:—

Lieut. Amos Whitney	No. 1	Oliver Hildreth	No. 19
John Conant	" 2	James Waugh	" 20
Capt. Daniel Taylor	" 3	James Sloan	" 21
Israel Hobart	" 4	Ens. Wm. Richardson	" 22
Daniel Adams	" 5	James Hosley	" 23
Benjamin Brooks	" 6	William Smith	" 24
David Spafford	" 7	Isaac Wallis	" 25
William Clark	" 8	Ens. Isaac Farrar	" 26
Robert Campbell	" 9	Jeremiah Ball	" 27
Lieut. Zacheriah Emery	" 10	Zebediah Wallis	" 28
Oliver Proctor	" 11	John Waugh	" 29
Timothy Davis	" 12	Lemuel Patts	" 30
Jonathan Wallis	" 13	Maj. Henry Price	" 31
Isaac Spalding	" 14	Samuel Wesson	" 32
Lieut. Ephraim Heald	" 15	Thomas Reed	" 33
Sarah Conant	" 16	James Stevens, Jr.	" 34
Lieut. Benjamin Brooks	" 17	Joseph Balding	" 35
Uriah Sartell	" 18		

In May, 1773, "Put to vote to see if the town will alter the deacons' seat in the meeting house and it past in the Negative." At a town meeting the next October, "Voted to provide handsome door stones for the meeting house, and chose a committee to do the same."

This second meeting-house was at this time finished in a manner well adapted to the wants of the town. It was about the same style, both in architecture and finish, as were most of the New England church buildings of that period. Within its consecrated walls, the followers of the Master worshipped, the citizens devised plans to meet all the wants of the town in its corporate capacity, the

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\* First Deputy Grand Master of Masons in America.



training band assembled to organize and listen to the reading of the militia law, the "committee of safety" held consultations, the selectmen discussed their duties, and the smouldering patriotism of an oppressed people burst into a flame.

This house was the Faneuil Hall of Townsend. During the war of the revolution, our continental soldiers, with dark forebodings, turned back in their outward journey, to take a last look at this structure, endeared to them by tender associations; and after long years of anxiety and suspense, after many eyes had been made tearful by the loss of brothers, husbands and fathers, who never returned: when the news of victory came, what sincere gratitude to the God of battles, what songs of thanksgiving and praise ascended from the altar in this humble sanctuary.

Through the year 1797, considerable dislike was manifested towards the uncentrical location of this meeting-house; besides, the house itself needed some repairs. The expense of maintaining a road over the ledges and steep grades of meeting-house hill, was an objection that had an influence with many. In some seasons there was no water to be obtained at or very near the summit of this hill.

In March, 1798, an article was inserted in the warrant calling a town meeting, in the following words: "7th. To see if the town will find the centre of their town and say where their meeting house ought to stand."

It may be presumed from this record, that there was at that time considerable conversation about a new meeting-house. At the meeting of the town, this article was passed over, but this action of the town did not stop the current in favor of a new meeting-house. From this time till 1803, for more than five years, when the moving of the old



meeting-house and making of a new one was finally agreed upon, the town met at thirteen different times to deliberate upon the subject, several of these meetings however, were adjourned meetings. The particular difficulty in the way, and what was most discussed was the disposal of the pews in the old meeting-house, or rather how much the old pew should go towards a new one in the contemplated house.

In October, 1799, "The town voted to find a suitable place near the centre of the town for the meeting-house to stand on, by taking an actual survey of the town and travel collectively; having due respect to the lands unsettled, which by its quality may become inhabited in future time," and chose a committee for that object and purpose.

This committee consisting of sixteen citizens of which Jonathan Wallis was chairman, reported the next month, recommending the spot where this house now stands at the centre of the town, for the location of their new meeting-house. The chairman and three others of this committee were of the number who, in 1772, drew lots for their pews in the house about to be removed.

The town at different times while the matter was under consideration, passed votes and then rescinded them, chose committees but refused to listen to their suggestions, debated the subject both in public and in private, agreed to a certain style of architecture, but afterwards altered it, and "agreed to disagree," until midwinter of 1804, when the job was let out, to Messrs. Moses and Aaron Warren, to move and finish this second meeting-house of Townsend, into the third meeting-house in town, to be completed during the year 1804. The building committee reported that the house should have three porches,



but subsequently, January 6, 1804, "Voted to build a belfry and a suitable place to hang a bell according to a former vote of the town in lieu of a porch, on condition that there shall be money subscribed, sufficient to purchase a bell."

Previous to the removal there was considerable talk about enlarging this house, but it was finally agreed to remove it, set up and renovate it, without any enlargement, except the porches.

This house is sixty feet in length and forty-five feet in width. It was "situated due east and west," in its new location, the belfry on the west end, a porch on the east end and a porch on the south side. Above the entrance on the south porch were the gilded letters, "BUILT 1804." There were three entrances, one at each end and one in front. The pulpit was on the north side of the house, opposite the front door, a broad aisle extending from one to the other, dividing the ground floor of the house into two equal parts. There was also an aisle surrounding the house, next to the wall pews. There were two entrances to the galleries by flights of stairs, one in the east porch, and the other in the belfry at the west end. The galleries were well supported by large turned pillars. There was a row of wall pews, twenty-four in number, surrounding the house both above and below. They were not like the sloping, sofa-like slips now in fashion, but were about six feet square; the walls were high and had a railing around the top, supported by nicely turned, little, hard-wood balusters, fitted into round holes both at the top and the bottom, which on the slightest touch would revolve and squeak like a nest of young mice. A row of uncushioned seats surrounded the interior of these pews, and often a flag-bottomed chair was placed in the centre thereof. The





seats were hung by hinges so that they might be turned up as the congregation rose for prayers; and at the close of the invocation they were carelessly let down with a noise similar to an irregular volley of small-arms. Over the stairs, at the west end, were the seats for the negroes, the small remnant of the race that were here at the commencement of the present century. The singers had the front of the gallery opposite the pulpit, which was lofty, finished with curious panel work and mouldings. "The pulpit had a recess or rostrum in which the speaker stood; behind him was a curtainless arched window; above him was a curious canopy, about six feet in diameter, resembling in form a turnip cut in two transversely. It was called a sounding-board, and hung near the speaker's head, by a slender iron rod from the ceiling, so slender as to have excited apprehensions and speculations in many a youthful mind as to the probability of its falling; and beneath him in front of the pulpit, were the deacons' seats in a sort of pen, where they sat facing the congregation, with the communion table hanging by hinges in front of them."

It must not be forgotten that this house, for more than a quarter of a century from the time of its erection, was well filled with attentive listeners, coming from all parts of the town, at each returning sabbath. Moses Warren, the principal contractor for moving and renovating this house, had just completed the tavern house now standing at the west side of the river at the central village, besides there were three or four dwelling-houses and John Giles' saw and grist mill at or near what is now Townsend Centre.

The New Hampshire turnpike was finished about this time, passing directly in front of this church, and convergent town roads were commenced and finished to this



common centre of the town. The citizens appreciating the eligibility of the location for their meeting-house, and desiring to make it more easy of access, August 28, 1804, before the house was ready for occupancy, "Voted to raise three hundred dollars, to be worked out in levelling the new common around the new meeting-house; and chose Lieut. Samuel Stone, John Giles and Ebenezer Stone a committee to conduct the same."

In May, 1852, after sectarianism had done its work, after the unitarians had decreased to a small number, its influential men at the start being either gone or dead, Charles Powers and others, in the interest of the methodists, bought this house from the unitarians, turned the west end of the same to the south, and fitted it up in its present style. Since that time, the methodists have rented the lower part of it to the town for a town hall, and occupied the upper part as an auditorium, in which they have enjoyed an uninterrupted preaching of the Gospel to the present time.

It has been conceded by competent judges, that the steeple, or tower, on this edifice has good architectural proportions, and is as well adapted to the main building as anything of the kind in this vicinity.

The first church bell ever in Townsend, was obtained by money subscribed for that purpose, in the summer of 1804. The tradition that a bell was given to this town by the Englishman for whom Townsend was named, and that the same was sold to pay the freight, and subsequently was hung on one of the Boston churches, is without doubt incorrect. It has been ascertained that the town of Mason and one or two other towns have the same legend; besides, if the town had been in expectancy of such a gift, an effort



would have been made to erect a tower suitable for its reception. This bell came to this town soon after the second meeting-house was taken down and before its erection where it now stands, and it was stored in the shed at the parsonage. During the pleasant sabbaths of that summer, meetings were held under the shading elms easterly of the parsonage, and this bell was struck to announce the hour for commencement of services.

February 4th, 1805, the town "Voted to pay Hezekiah Richardson \$39.38 for hanging the bell."

To the people of 1876 this would appear to be an extravagant charge, from the fact that one of our townsmen, by the same name (Mr. Levi Richardson), during this year hung three church bells in this town *gratuitously*; one on each of the churches at the Centre, and one at West Townsend. The bell hung by the aforesaid Hezekiah, was cracked in the year 1818, when a new bell weighing about 1500 pounds was purchased by subscribers, the old one going in part to pay for the new one. This bell, after the church property, including the parsonage, passed into the hands of what was called the first parish, or the unitarians, was removed by them to their new meeting-house at the Harbor, and subsequently it was sold to pay the debts of that society.

From that time till 1876 this church was minus a bell, when the methodists experiencing a revival which added considerably both to their spiritual and pecuniary strength, and the town having inaugurated a fire department and desiring a heavier bell, the liberal citizens at the central village, and some others, by subscription, furnished the money for the purchase of the present bell, which tolls



regularly and gently for the presence of the evening worshippers, and occasionally sends forth the clangorous notes of alarm, for brave hearts and willing hands to subdue the insatiable element.

The orthodox congregational meeting-house was completed and dedicated in June, 1830. Some of the men who seceded from the old church, just previous to that time, possessing a good amount of wealth, and not lacking in either enterprise or will, were determined to have a first class church edifice. With much unanimity this society agreed both on the location for their meeting-house and the manner in which it was to be built. This fourth meeting-house of Townsend is made of brick, and in every particular, is much superior to any church building ever built in this town; and it reflects credit upon the taste and good judgment of the men who designed the same and furnished the money with which it was erected.

With the exception of a change in the pulpit and some internal wall decorations, it remains substantially the same as when it came from the hands of Josiah Sawtelle, its architect and builder. The clock in the tower of this church was presented by Deacon Joel Adams and Samuel Adams, his son. A bell weighing about 2000 pounds, purchased by subscription, was hung on this house soon after it was finished, which was in constant use from that time till 1876, when it was cracked and another one was put in its place.

The time-piece, which graces the front of the singers' gallery, was the gift of Mrs. Lucy Stone, at a cost of fifty dollars. The flagons, cups and plates, at present in use by this church, as sacramental furniture, and a baptismal basin, were purchased by the legacy of one hundred





dollars from Deacon Daniel Adams, agreeably to the terms of his will.

The baptist church, at the west village, was the fifth church edifice erected in Townsend. A committee was chosen in the autumn of 1833, consisting of Levi Warren, Levi Ball, Jacob Sanders, Ralph Warren, and Jephth Cummings, to receive proposals for building a meeting-house, sixty-four feet long, forty-five feet wide, with posts twenty-four feet in height; and this committee closed a contract, with Josiah Sawtelle, to build this house, which was to be completed before October 1, 1834. Some deviation from the written agreement, mutually understood, delayed the completion of this house for nearly two months. It was dedicated January 15, 1835. A number of dignitaries of the baptist denomination, including three or four doctors of divinity, besides a large and appreciative audience, were in attendance. Dr. Sharp, of Boston, preached the sermon, and Dr. Hague, of that city, assisted in the services on that occasion. Ample preparations were made by the citizens of the village for a sumptuous dinner, after the dedicatory services were ended, and at several tables in different parts of West Townsend, peculiarly appetizing spreads were presented; and many visitors and friends attested to the hospitality of the patrons and members of the "First Baptist Society of Townsend."

This meeting-house is a *fac simile* of a meeting-house that was in Fitchburg, which so favorably impressed the building committee, in regard to its proportions and convenience, that it was the model for their house. This building was renovated in 1873, by being newly plastered, painted, and paper-frescoed; a new pulpit, an appropriate



chandelier and side lights, were inserted at that time. For this improvement the baptist people are under special obligations to Messrs. Edward Ordway, and John M. Bruce, who solicited the money for that purpose. It would be difficult to find fault either with the location, the internal arrangements, or the taste exhibited in the finish of this neat, unostentatious chapel.

From the day it was decided to erect this house of worship, to the present time, the baptist church has been continually the recipient of the favors of the Warren family. Mr. Levi Warren not only gave the land on which this building stands but he gave nearly one-third of the money required to build this house. Mr. Moses Warren gave the bell, which was hung in the belfry when the edifice was completed. Mr. Charles Warren\* gave both the clock on the tower, and the one inside which hangs in front of the singers' gallery. Among those who contributed liberally towards the funds necessary to build this house, *nine*, by the name of Warren, gave freely; and, ever since that time, when the money needed to defray the expenses of preaching has not been easily obtained, Levi, Moses, Aaron, Ralph, Dorman, and other Warrens, and those who intermarried with the Warrens, have "come to the rescue."

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\* Charles Warren was the son of Thomas Warren. He amassed a large fortune in business, in Boston, and lost it. On account of his integrity, he was afterwards appointed agent of a large establishment engaged in the manufacture of cotton goods. During the war of the rebellion, he went out to Central America, and engaged in the cultivation of cotton. This business was a success. While passing from one part of the country to another, in company of guides, he was murdered by them for his money. He was an amiable, benevolent gentleman, who kindly remembered his birth place in the days of his prosperity. He was unmarried.



## CHAPTER VI.

### *MILITARY, CEMETERIES, AND BEQUESTS.*

• The 'Training Band'—'The Alarm List'—Division of the Town into Two Military Companies—The North Company—The South Company—List of the Captains of these Companies—Townsend Light Infantry—Its Captains—Cemeteries—Land Given by William Clark—Burying Ground Near the Common at the Centre of the Town—Its Enlargement in 1854—Gift of Land for a Cemetery at West Townsend by Levi Warren—The Stocks, an Instrument of Torture to the Flesh—Amos Whitney's Will—His Epitaph.

The military spirit among the people of the province of Massachusetts, from the time of the incorporation of the town to 1775, was rather on the wane. Most of the collisions between the settlers and the Indians occurred previous to 1732. There is no record concerning any military company in this town, previous to the revolutionary war, whereas, every town of sufficient inhabitants had an organized military company. It was customary in those days to give every man his title, civil as well as military, whether he was addressed orally or by manuscript. In the town records, at an early period, the names of Dea. Isaac Spaulding, Capt. John Stevens, Lieut. Daniel Taylor, Ensign John Farrar and Ensign Amos Whitney, are of frequent occurrence. Twenty years afterwards, more or



less, the names of *Capt.* Daniel Taylor, and *Lieut.* Amos Whitney, are in the records, which is sufficient proof that they were a part of the military officers of the town, for a long time. These puritans were slow in their movements in discharging an officer, as long as he was faithful to his trust. No whim or caprice was allowed to disturb a captain, a deacon, or a minister, and their offices in many instances ended with their lives.

It is impossible to describe, with any degree of accuracy, the military organizations of the town from the breaking out of the revolution to the commencement of the present century. The "training band" of the records, consisted, as is supposed, of the robust yeomen of the town, able-bodied, and in the full vigor of manhood, who were liable, at any and all times, to be called to the defence of the province. The "Alarm List" contained the names of persons who were either too young or too old to endure the hardships of war, but on an emergency, or as a home guard, could render efficient service. Persons less than eighteen or over fifty years of age are supposed to have belonged to the alarm list. It is probable, considering the excitement caused by the Shay's rebellion, and owing to other causes, that nearly every man in town during the next ten years, after the British troops were withdrawn from our borders, was well acquainted with the use of the flint-lock musket.

The first record of any military organization was the division of the town, in order to have two military companies; all persons liable, living north of the county road, made up the north company, and all south of that highway, the south company. This arrangement was observed till 1801, when the turnpike was built and that road was made the dividing line between the two companies.





The most prominent men in town were selected as military officers. Men of wealth only could afford to hold a commission, for all officers were subject to considerable expense to conform to the custom of that period in furnishing liquors for the men. It was considered a great honor at that time to be dubbed with a military title, and very dishonorable in any officer not to furnish ardent spirit in abundance.

The orderly books of these two companies, that of the south company, as early as 1788, and that of the north company, commencing 1792, are still in good condition, from which the names of the captains are taken.

Captains of South Company :—

WILLIAM STEVENS, from 1788 to 1790.

ZACHERIAH HILDRETH, from 1790 to 1796.

TIMOTHY FESSENDEN, from 1796 to 1801.

ELIAB GOING, from 1801 to 1804.

HEZEKIAH RICHARDSON, from 1804 to 1807.

WILLIAM ARCHIBALD, from 1807 to 1810.

ISAAC SPALDING, from 1810 to 1812.

JAMES ADAMS, from 1812 to 1815.

ISAAC KIDDER, from 1815 to 1817.

Captains of North Company :—

JOHN CAMPBELL, from 1792 to 1798.

JONATHAN WALLIS, from 1798 to 1802.

SAMUEL BROOKS, from 1802 to 1805.

JOSEPH ADAMS, from 1805 to 1808.

WALTER HASTINGS, from 1808 to 1812.

JOHN WAUGH, from 1812 to 1815.

GEORGE WALLACE, 1815.

These two companies were kept up with considerable interest till 1817, when the Townsend Light Infantry was



organized. After that time it appears that all soldiers in town, not belonging to the light infantry, were gathered into one company. The records of this corps are not to be found, but the following are the names of most, if not all, of the captains of this company:—Whitney Farmer, Daniel Giles, Samuel Brooks, Elnathan Davis, Solomon Jewett, Noal Ball, Robert T. Woods, and Beriah Blood.

The interest in the militia began to decrease about the time the temperance cause commenced. Previous to this time, the social principle among the people caused the two or three days of the year devoted to military duty to pass away in an agreeable manner. Notwithstanding the large quantity of liquor foolishly used at that time, perhaps there was no more drunkenness then, than at present. It is well, however, that a large portion of the citizens of the town, gave up painting their faces and commenced painting their dwellings.

In 1837, a law was enacted making all military duty voluntary, which set aside all the uniformed companies. Many considered the expense of the system as unnecessary. It grew unpopular from many causes. The clergy preached against it; peace societies were formed and peace conventions assembled. The excellent advice of Washington, "In time of peace prepare for war," was regarded as old-fashioned, and applicable to some other nation. Had it not been for a few regiments of volunteer militia, from Massachusetts and New York, in 1861, the capitol of the nation probably would have fallen into rebel hands.

On petition of Levi Warren, Walter Hastings, and others, the Townsend Light Infantry was chartered, in



1817. This company commenced under favorable circumstances, and it was kept up, with much interest, for more than thirty years. Its ranks were kept full for more than ten years after military duty was not compulsory. It lived long enough to wear out three sets of uniforms in different styles and colors. This company was a well disciplined corps, and on various occasions upon its appearance out of town on parade, for its soldierly bearing and general good appearance, it received many compliments from military men. The Prescott Guards, of Pepperell, and the Townsend Light Infantry, were considered the best companies in the regiment to which they belonged.

On the fourth of July, 1822, at a celebration on the common, at the centre of the town, this company received the present of a standard, from the ladies of Townsend. The company orderly book contains the following record:—

"The standard was escorted to the common by nearly an hundred respectable ladies of this town, and presented by the amiable Miss Susan Pratt,\* and received by Ensign Ebenezer Stone, after which the ladies were escorted back to the tavern by the company.

JOHN LEWIS, Clerk."

Persons who were in attendance at this celebration inform the writer that the ceremony was impressive, and the presentation speech, composed by Aaron Keyes, Esq.,

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\* Daughter of Benamuel Pratt. Married, August 29, 1822, Ptolemy Edson, M. D., a practical physician at Chester, Vermont, for fifty-five years. She died September 8, 1844. He died December 20, 1866.



and also the reply, were prepared with care, and well delivered.

Captains of the Townsend Light Infantry :—

ASA TURNER, from incorporation till 1821.

LEVI WARREN, thence till April 3, 1822.

JOSIAH G. HEALD, thence till March 21, 1823.

WILLIAM PARK, thence till August 6, 1825.

EBENEZER STONE, thence till November 7, 1826.

JEPHTHA CUMMINGS, thence till March 13, 1828.

LEVI STEARNS, thence till August 6, 1829.

JOSEPH H. HILDRETH, thence till August 20, 1831.

SAMUEL ADAMS, thence till December 2, 1834.

HORACE WARNER, thence till April 18, 1837.

ABRAM S. FRENCH, thence till November 29, 1839.

AL SHERWIN, thence till April 15, 1842.

ALEXANDER CRAIG, thence till April, 1844.

PRENTICE STONE, no record.

JONATHAN PIERCE, no record.

ELIAB GOING, no record.

WILLIAM ADAMS, no record.

WALTON BANCROFT, thence till 1852.

The company closed its existence under Capt. Bancroft, since which time the town has been without a military company.

It shows a lack of good judgment for a civilized people or municipality to be without a suitable military force. At this time, the country is in as defenceless a condition as it was in 1861, notwithstanding the lesson then learned. Should the nation be embroiled in another war, and as long as human nature remains the same it is liable to become so at most any time, a long routine of preparation would be required, and the delay in organization and discipline would give the enemy a great advantage, and





perhaps, be at the expense of many lives. People lull themselves to sleep in talking about the horrors and wickedness of war. Clergymen and pious citizens pray that all wars may cease, and exhort to non-resistance; and statesmen trust in diplomacy. Now moral suasion is a great power; but in an exigency like a riot, sixty-four rifles, in the hands of disciplined men, under a clear-headed commander, are worth more than eloquence, argument, or prayers.

In 1742, the town "Voted to accept of an acre of land, from Mr. William Clark, for a burial place." It is probable, that this "God's acre" was given to the town a considerable length of time before this vote was passed. There must have been some burials in Townsend during the first twelve or fifteen years of its settlement, and from its proximity to the meeting-house, this was undoubtedly the first place selected for the interment of the dead. The graves first made here are marked by rough slabs of slate, minus any inscriptions, and the first stones on which are any records, date back no further than 1745.

In 1744, "Voted to choose a committee of three men to clear up the burying place, and dispose of the timber for the best advantage of the town. Chose for this committee, Nathaniel Richardson, Joseph Baldwin, and Josiah Robbins." In 1747, the town evinced a deeper interest in this cemetery, and "Voted to fence the burying place with a stone wall four feet and four inches high." Mr. William Clark, the giver, was the owner of a large amount of land in this town. His name appears on the list of the seventy-two persons quoted in this work, who were present at Concord, in May, 1720. He subscribed for a "Lott" in "y<sup>e</sup> North Town" but did not pay at the time. He was a



shoemaker, owned slaves, came from Concord to this town, and settled on the south side of the river, at the base of the hill on the South Row road leading from the old meeting-house, on the west side of the road, where one Isaac Spaulding afterward lived. The bridge, at the west of the Harbor pond, has always been known as the Clark bridge, and was called for him.

A slate gravestone, now in a good state of preservation, was erected to his memory, situated near the centre of this burial place, from which it appears that he died in 1756, aged seventy-seven years.

About 1816, the people began to talk about a new burying place, the acre of ground given by William Clark being nearly full; besides, there are no avenues in this acre; and "dust to dust" is so closely commingled, and the headstones are so numerous, that the part farthest from the road is not easily approached by a funeral cortege. In 1818, the town voted to buy the land now used for a cemetery at the centre of the town, then owned by Rev. David Palmer, Deacon Daniel Adams, and Richard Warner, Esq., each of whom had an angle of land needed to make the grounds eligible, both in distance from the meeting-house and quadrangular in shape. In 1854, the town chose a committee, consisting of the selectmen, to buy land at the east of their new burial place in order to enlarge the same. The east line of the land, bought in 1818, commenced near the site of the receiving tomb; thence southerly in a line nearly parallel with the west line of the cemetery. This committee bought about six acres of land, of Richard Warner, at the eastward of this line, enclosed it with a picket fence, and took up the east line fence of the original plot. The gentle hill in the



land, making it an eligible location for building tombs, was probably considered in selecting this spot in 1818. The summit of this hill contains only a few graves, from which it may be inferred that this elevated part of the ground was disliked as a burial place.

The tombs on the west side of this cemetery were built in 1819. The fashion, of making tombs like those, was quite general in this vicinity at that period. From the time of Cheops, the pyramid man, to the present, mankind in all grades of civilization and religion, have evinced the most absurd ideas in regard to the burial of the dead, from the Indian, whose steed and war weapons were inhumed with his corse, to the nabob, or senator, reposing beneath the ponderous and elaborately finished marble at Mount Auburn. The uncollined and unknelled remains of the soldiers at Andersonville prison, sleep as well "after life's fitful fever" as though placed beneath the gorgeous monuments erected to their memory in the principal cities of this great nation, the liberties of which they fell to perpetuate. The genius and wealth of the world combined cannot make death either welcome or lovely.

In 1836, Mr. Levi Warren set apart a tract of land for a cemetery, on the south side of the road from West Townsend to Ashby, not far from the baptist meeting-house. Two or three bodies were buried there. For good reasons, Mr. Warren altered his mind about the location and had the bodies moved in 1838, at his own expense, to the cemetery now at the north of the river, and then gave the town a deed of the land.

The stocks used by our ancestors for reformatory purposes more than one hundred years ago, were placed at the west end of the meeting-house, in the open air.



They were made with two heavy, hard wood, three inch plank, each about a foot in width and seven or eight feet long. In the edges of these planks placed edge to edge, four holes were cut, one-half in each plank. They were firmly set together in that position, with a hinge at one end and a padlock at the other. When a culprit was to be punished, he was taken to this spot, when the upper plank would be raised sufficiently to admit the persons ankles into these holes, then the plank would be shut down and locked, leaving the offender to remain, either sitting, or on his back, to reflect on the condition of his allegiance to the constituted authority. No record has been found showing what class of crimes were punished by this instrument of torture to the flesh. It probably never was used many times, and then only in extreme cases of civil offences.

The following is a copy of the will of Lieutenant Amos Whitney, whose name so frequently occurs in this volume :—

"In the name of God, amen, I Amos Whitney of Townshend in the county of Middlesex in the Province of Massachusetts Bay in New England Gentleman, being in health of body and of perfect mind and memory thanks be to God, calling to mind my mortality, knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, that is to say principally and first of all I recommend my soul into the hands of God who gave it and my body to be buried in a decent manner, at the discretion of my executor, nothing doubting but at the general resurrection to receive the same by the mighty power of God; and touching such worldly goods





and estate as God has blessed me with, I give and demise in manner and form, viz; *Imprimis*: I give and bequeath to my kinsman Levi Whitney of Townshend, his heirs and assigns, all the lands in Townshend which I purchased of the heirs of Major Jon<sup>a</sup> Hubbard as bounded in said deed with the buildings thereon; Also all my right or share in the undivided lands in the towns of Townshend and Ashby; also my right or privilege in the meeting-house in Townshend. I also give and bequeath to said Levi Whitney all and singular my other estate both real and personal not hereafter or otherwise disposed of. I also constitute and appoint said Levi Whitney sole executor of this my last will and testament.

"ITEM. I give and bequeath to the town of Townshend all the lands I am now possessed of in Townshend, not particularly given to Levi Whitney, with the buildings and appurtenances belonging thereto; (my right in the meeting house excepted) to lye as a parsonage forever, as long as the gospel is preached in said town, to be appropriated to the use of the settled ministry for the benefit of the town; also my clock I give and bequeath to the town as aforesaid for the use and improvement of the settled ministry, and it is my will that the said clock be not carried, used or improved off said farm by me bequeathed to the town. And it is my will that the town of Townshend take possession of the above bequeathed premises on the fifteenth day of April next after my decease. I also give and bequeath to said town of Townshend, one hundred pounds of lawful money, to be paid by my executor, fifty pounds in one year and the other fifty pounds to be paid in two years next after my decease, to be by the town put at interest forever, and said interest to be appropriated to



the use and support of a reading and writing school in said town and to be appropriated to no other use.

"ITEM. I give and bequeath to the town of Ashby four pounds lawful money to purchase a cushion for the ministerial desk, to be paid by my executor in one year after my decease.

"ITEM. I give to the district of Shirley four pounds Lawful money, to purchase a cushion for the ministerial desk to be paid by my executor in one year after my decease.

"ITEM. I give to the town of Mason four pounds of lawful money to purchase a cushion for the ministerial desk to be paid by my executor in one year after my decease. Furthermore my will is that my executor do speedily after my decease pay all my just debts and funeral charges and speedily after my decease and interment, procure and erect upon my grave a decent and large pair of grave stones, for which purpose and the payment of the several legacies before mentioned, I give and bequeath to him the said Levi Whitney all my notes, bonds and book debts: Furthermore I do by these presents utterly revoke and disannul and disavow all other former wills, testaments legacies and bequests, and do ratify this and this only to be my last will and testament.

"IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty-eighth day of August, *Anno Domini*, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine.

AMOS WHITNEY, [ L. S. ]

"Signed, Sealed, pronounced and declared by the said Amos Whitney to be his last will and testament in the presence of us the subscribers.

DANIEL FARWELL  
THOMAS HUBBARD  
JAMES LOCK JR."



This document is given entire, to show the character of the testator, and the strong religious feeling which governed everything at that time. In this place, nothing need be said concerning the manner in which the parsonage was disposed of, sixty years after the death of Mr. Whitney. The "hundred pounds lawful money" disappeared from the town records at about the time when the continental scrip became worthless. The executor carried out the wishes of the testator to the letter in every particular. He erected the "decent and large pair of grave-stones" and put on the larger one this inscription:—

IN MEMORY OF

LIEUT. AMOS WHITNEY,

Who departed this life October 31, 1770,

In the sixty-sixth year of his age.

The man is gone no more to visit earth;  
And Lo! a new scene opens at his death.  
His Public views in Lustre do appear,  
And men enjoy his bounties far and near.  
This town by gratitude and justice led  
Owns him a benefactor now he's dead;  
On children yet unborn his gifts descend,  
Which will remain till time shall end.

Amos Whitney, a bachelor, was born at Watertown, in 1704. He held several town offices, and was a representative for Townsend in a convention held at Faneuil Hall, in 1768. He was one of the pillars of the church, an estimable townsman, square and upright in all his transactions.



His epitaph reads: "The man is gone, no more to visit earth." This is fortunate, for if he should ever come this way again, and learn anything about his hundred pounds, and the fate of his parsonage, he might get a little excited at the careless and stupid manner in which his money and land were expended and lost.

The principal stable, or barn, on the premises that once was the parsonage, is all that remains of the buildings which has any resemblance to their appearance when they were put in possession of the town, by the executor of the will of Lieut. Whitney.

In 1875, the house, which was a convenient cottage, one and one-half stories in height, was remodelled, enlarged, and converted into a two-story dwelling, by the proprietor, Mr. Henry Williams. The location, about midway between the central village and the Harbor, is just elevated enough to be pleasant.

At a convenient shade distance, just eastward of this spot, stands one of the largest old elms in Townsend, under the spreading branches of which, the children of Dix and Palmer whiled away many cheerful hours.

It is a temple not made with hands; a shrine rendered almost sacred by the pious acts of Whitney, who, with prophetic wisdom, planted and trained it to "live through the centuries." The memory of the good and true is around it and with it; and, although storms and winters have mutilated its massive members, still they droop gracefully athwart the lawn and beckon the heated and thirsty toiler in summer, to the well-curb beneath its refreshing shadow. This also will crumble to dust like the busy actors, who from time immemorial have played around it.





Concerning the clock given by the foregoing will, tradition saith not; but it undoubtedly marked the hours for rest, pleasure, refreshment, for school, and particularly the time for a faithful pastor to go forth to his consecrated work.

The cushions for the several desks given by these legacies have all faded, and with them the manly forms which bent reverently over their glossy damask.

But notwithstanding all these changes, the benevolent disposition of Lieutenant Amos Whitney will remain fresh in the memory of the good people of Townsend, as long as it retains a written history.



## CHAPTER VII.

### *WAR OF THE REVOLUTION.*

Excitement Previous to the War—A Pamphlet Received from the Selectmen of Boston—Committee of Correspondence and Safety—Action of the Town in 1773—Action of the Town in 1774—Delegates to the Provincial Congress—Assistance Rendered by Townsend to the Citizens of Boston During its Siege—Efforts to Obtain Salt—The Alarm on the 19th of April, 1775—Roll of Capt. James Hosley's Company of Minute-Men that Marched to Defend the Colony—Roll of Capt. Samuel Douglass' Company—Roll of Capt. Henry Farwell's Company—Capt. Thomas Warren's Company—Attempt to Regulate the Prices of Goods and Labor—The Tories of Townsend—Letter from Boston Concerning the Return of the Absentees—Privations and Struggles for Independence—Story of Eunice Locke—Some Account of Her and Her Brother—Roll of Capt. James Hosley's Company of Volunteers from Townsend, Pepperell, and Ashby, which Went to the Assistance of Gen. Gates in 1777—Adoption of the State Constitution, 1778—Depreciation of the Continental Money—Names of the Townsend Soldiers in 1780—List of Prices—Retrospective.

In September, 1768, the selectmen of Townsend received a letter from the selectmen of Boston, requesting them to call a town meeting, and then to take into consideration the critical condition of government affairs, and to choose an agent to come to Boston, to express there, the views, wishes, and determination of the people of Townsend on this important subject. A town meeting was



accordingly called expressly for this purpose, when, "Put to vote to see if the town would comply with the town of Boston in sending a man to join with them in the convention, proposed to be held at Faneuil Hall, and it was unanimously complied with. Unanimously voted and chose Lieut. Amos Whitney, as a committee man to join with the convention as aforesaid."

It will be recollected that the five years, which preceded the time of this action of the town of Boston, were exciting times for the colonies. Commerce had come to a stand-still by the operation of the "Stamp Act" and the "Sugar Act." The operation of both these obnoxious acts were defeated by non-importation and smuggling. In 1766, the Stamp Act was repealed, to the great joy of the colonists, and importation of goods was greater than ever before. Everything was prosperous for a short time, but in 1768, the obnoxious "Revenue Act" was passed, which threw a cloud over the enterprise and chilled the prosperity of the entire people. It was at this juncture that the town of Boston consulted the other towns in this province, in regard to asserting their rights and maintaining their liberties.

The firm resistance with which the projects of the British government were received, served to strengthen the Ministry to carry their points at all hazards. Troops were stationed in Boston to intimidate and overawe the inhabitants, and acts more severe were passed by Parliament. The colonists saw that they must either yield with abject submission, or gain their rights by a resort to arms, and they did not hesitate between the alternatives. Thus their decision was arrived at with the greatest deliberation and a count of the cost. The people of Boston were foremost in resisting the unjust measures of the mother country,



and they were nobly seconded by the inhabitants of other towns. Every town in the province was consulted upon this all absorbing subject, that they might know what they could rely upon in case of open rebellion against the government of Great Britain.

In January, 1773, another letter and a printed pamphlet were received from the town of Boston, requesting the inhabitants of the town of Townsend to pass such resolves, concerning their rights and privileges as free members of society, as they were willing to die in maintaining. These resolves the Bostonians requested might be sent in the form of a report, to their committee of correspondence. The town responded to this suggestion in an appropriate manner, as will be seen from the following extract from the record:—

"At a town meeting of the inhabitants of Townshend legally assembled at the Public Meeting-house in said town on Tuesday January 5, 1773 at Eleven O'clock in fore noon. James Hosley was chosen Moderator.

"Voted to choose a committee of five men to consider the Letter of Correspondence from the town of Boston, concerning the rights and privileges of this Province and report such Resolves and measures as may be proper for the town to come into, respecting the same. Chosen for said committee Capt. Daniel Adams, Deacon Jonathan Stow, Capt. Daniel Taylor, James Hosley and Jonathan Wallace.

"Voted to adjourn this meeting till to-morrow at twelve of the clock to this place.

"Met at the adjournment on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 1773. The committee chosen by the town at a meeting on the 5th





of said month, to consider the present state of our public affairs, particularly as pointed out to us by the metropolis of this Province reported as follows : .

"Inasmuch as the situation of our Public Affairs in this and the other colonies, in respect to the enjoyment of our Rights and Privileges is truly alarming, we consider it a Duty which this town owes to their Maker, to themselves and their posterity to manifest in a public, solemn manner their sentiments on this occasion, in order to which they form the following Resolves (viz)

"1. That it is the opinion of this town that the Rights of the colonists of this Province in particular, as men as christians and as subjects, are justly stated in the pamphlet sent us from the town of Boston.

"2. It is our opinion that our rights and liberties do labor under divers infringements, particularly in respect to the way in which our money is taken from us, by which our governor is supported, and in respect to the extensive power vested in the commissioners of the customs, and by a military force being employed to keep us in awe and so forth.

"3. Resolved that if the prevailing report concerning the Judges of our Superior Court being supported any other way than by the free grants of the people be true, it is a very threatening and dangerous innovation, directly tending to corrupt the Streams of Justice.

"4. Resolved that our natural and constitutional Rights, our civil and Religious liberties were confirmed to us by our charter, purchased by our ancestors at the expense of much fatigue and blood, which renders the possession of them more dear to us, and the parting with them more greivous, and lays us under stronger obligations to defend them in all constitutional and scriptural ways.

"5. Resolved that the following instructions be and are hereby given to our Representative ; (viz) that he use



his utmost influence to obtain a removal of our present burdens and to defend our liberties from all further encroachments, and to enquire into the report concerning our Superior Judges being independent of the people; to have our unhappy circumstances represented in a true Light to our Rightful Sovereign and that the General Assembly recommend to the people of this Province to set apart a day, they the assembly shall think fit to name, for Humiliation and Prayer: that we may in a united Public manner spread our grievances before the King of Kings.

"6. Resolved that the town of Boston have shown a true spirit of patriotism and a tender concern for the welfare of the Province, and that our sincere thanks are due to them for their spirited endeavors to discover the danger of our situation, and to lead us in the way of seeking redress.

"7. Resolved that a committee of five suitable men be chosen to correspond from time to time as occasion may require with the town of Boston and any other towns that have or shall, from a sense of our difficulties, come into such a method of correspondence and communication.

"The above Report being several times read, and debated upon, and put to vote to see if the town would accept of the same, passed in the affirmative.

"The committee chosen to correspond from time to time with the town of Boston and other towns is as follows (viz) Daniel Adams, Deacon Jonathan Stow, Capt. Daniel Taylor, James Hosley and Samuel Manning.

"Voted that the town clerk transmit an authentic copy of the foregoing proceedings of this town meeting to the committee of correspondence of the town of Boston.

DANIEL ADAMS *Town Clerk.*"

From the above extract may be learned what the sentiments of the people of this town were, in regard to



the attitude of Great Britain towards her colonies. They considered that the course of the mother country was oppressive, and unjust, and their rights had been violated.

In 1774, after having received another letter from Boston, and having also heard from other towns, by letters, concerning the tax on tea, a town meeting was called January 11, when the following was recorded :—

"The town taking into consideration certain intelligence received from the committee of correspondence in Boston, together with their request for intelligence and advice from the several towns in this Province, passed the following resolves (*viz*).

"Being informed of the late proceedings of our fellow countrymen in Philadelphia, relative to the East India Company being allowed to send large quantities of tea into these colonies, subject to the payment of a duty upon its being landed; we do agree with them and readily adopt their sentiments upon this affair.

"Resolved that we have ever been uneasy with the plan laid down by the British Ministry for raising revenue in America, and that the present situation of our public affairs, particularly in respect to a late act of Parliament in favor of the East India Company requires our attention and therefore further

"Resolved that we stand forth in the cause of liberty, in union with other towns, and in gratitude to the spirited, patriotic town of Boston in particular.

"Resolved that we earnestly advise that no tea be imported into this, or any other American Colony, so long as it is subject to a duty, payable upon its being landed here.

"Resolved that we are sorry for the unhappy disagreement between this and the mother country, and we earnestly wish to see harmony restored.



"Voted that the preeceeding resolves be recorded and a copy of the same attested by the town clerk be transmitted to the committee of correspondence of the town of Boston.

DANIEL ADAMS *Town Clerk.*"

It thus appears that His Majesty's subjects in the Province of Massachusetts, while deliberating on the injustice and wrongs which had been inflicted on them, were not entirely without hope that their rights might be respected and "harmony restored." An armed resistance as yet had not been agreed upon by the colonists.

The first public meeting of the people, in Massachusetts, outside of Faneuil Hall, was a Provincial Congress, holden at Concord, October 11, 1774, which adjourned to Cambridge, and of which John Hancock was President.

At a town meeting "Oct. 3, 1774, Jonathan Stow was chosen to appear in behalf of the town of Townshend to join the provincial congress to be holden at Concord on the 11th of Oct. Inst."

At a town meeting "Nov. 21, 1774, Capt. Daniel Taylor was chosen to appear in behalf of the town of Townshend to join the provincial congress to be holden at Cambridge Nov. 22<sup>d</sup> Inst.," and January 2, 1775, Israel Hobart was chosen to attend the same Congress, at Cambridge, on the first day of February, 1775. This Congress enacted that at least one-fourth of all the militia should be enrolled as minute-men, or men who should be prepared to march at a minute's warning, on any emergency. This was a decisive step, which shows the grit of the revolutionary fathers. Some of the members of this Congress from different towns, gave their time and expenses, others were paid wholly or in part by *subscription*.





The town voted to indemnify the constables for refusing to pay over the money, which had been assessed by the Province, into the hands of Harrison Gray ; also voted to indemnify the assessors for *refusing to return the names* of such constables, although requested to do so.

The people were exceedingly aroused at this time. These were the defiant measures which brought on the war, and started the King's troops *en route* for Concord, on the memorable 19th day of April, 1775.

Boston at this time was suffering under the vengeance of Parliament, for throwing over the tea, and being the head and front of disloyalty. There were many poor people in that town, out of employment, and having a scanty allowance of provisions. To them the inland towns extended the hand of charity and relief.

At a town meeting, January 2, 1775, "Voted and chose a committee of five men to forward the donations for Boston and Charlestown. Chose for said committee Mr. Israel Hobart, Capt. Benjamin Brooks, Lieut. Zachariah Emery, and Mr. John Conant." Probably each man of this committee took a well packed sled-load of provisions to their suffering friends at the tide-water. There is no other record concerning that transaction. The warrants for calling town meetings were not often recorded at that time. At a town meeting, June 19, 1775, "Voted to purchase 50 Hogsheads of salt for a Town Stock. Deacon Richard Wyer chosen to go to Salem to purchase said salt, and ordered him to take his directions from the Select Men, who are to give security in the name of the town for the same."

It will thus be seen that the town was preparing for the tug of war, which was about to commence—the opening scene of the revolution.



So far as the actual means of gaining a living were concerned, the people at that time, were comparatively independent. They took the wool from the sheep, cleansed, spun and wove it, ready to be made into their clothing. Lighter fabrics were made from their flax, spun by a foot-wheel, the thread being graded by running through between the thumb and fore-finger of the operative. They ground their grain into flour for their bread, produced vegetables and meat plentifully for their tables, and laid the rock maple under contribution for their sugar. Luxury was a word not to be found in their vocabulary; and *tea* they would not use after it was subject to the duty. Salt they could not produce, but they exercised great prudence in sending to the coast in season for an abundant supply. For the expense of getting it, a separate tax was assessed on all the polls and estates in town.

The alarm to the minute-men was given on the 19th of April, 1775, by the firing of a cannon on the common about three o'clock in the afternoon. Without doubt, quite a number of Paul Reveres tested their horsemanship in warning the patriots of the approach of the "ministerial troops." Ephraim Warren was plowing on the farm now owned by Samuel F. Warren, where he then lived, when the alarm was given. He immediately detached his team from the plow, rode one of his horses to his house, and called, "Molly" (he married Mary Parker of Chelmsford). "the regulars are coming and I am going, give me my gun," and he quickly reined his horse toward the coast and started. He arrived at Concord early in the evening, only in season to see a few dead bodies and some wounded British soldiers, who had been left by their comrades in their hasty flight.



"Muster Roll\* of Capt. James Hosley's company of minute-men belonging to Col. William Prescott's regiment, who marched from Townshend, April last, to Cambridge, in defence of the colony against the ministerial troops :—

JAMES HOSLEY, Capt.	JOSEPH BALDWIN.
RICHARD WYER, 1st Lieut.	WILLIAM CLARK.
JAMES LOCKE, 2d Lieut.	DAVID GRAHAM.
PETER BUTTERFIELD, Sergt.	THOMAS EATON.
BENJAMIN BALL, Sergt.	EBENEZER BALL, JR.
LEMUEL MAYNARD, Corpl.	JOSEPH SHATTUCK.
EPHRAIM BROWN, Corpl.	THOMAS WEBSTER, JR.
NATH'L BAGLEY, Drummer.	LEVI WHITNEY.
EBENEZER BALL.	NOAH FARRAR.
DANIEL HOLT.	JOSIAH RICHARDSON.
JAMES SLOAN.	JONATHAN PATT.
WILLIAM KENDALL.	ISAAC KIDDER.
DANIEL CONANT.	JOSEPH RUMRILL, JR.
ASA HEALD.	JONAS FARMER.
JOSEPH RUMRILL.	DANIEL SHERWIN.
OLIVER PROCTOR.	ELEAZER BUTTERFIELD, JR.
DANIEL CLARK.	ISAAC BOYNTON.
RICHARD WARREN.	EPHRAIM BROWN.
ISRAEL RICHARDSON.	JOHN CLARK.
ROBERT WAUGH.	JEDEDIAH JEWETT.
ELIJAH WYMAN.	DUDLEY KEMP.
ELEAZER BUTTERFIELD.	ABEL RICHARDSON.
BENJAMIN HOBART.	JOHN MANNING.
JOHN BROWN.	JOHN EMERY.
DANIEL EMERY.	THOMAS WYMAN.
EPHRAIM SHEDD.	HENRY DUNSTER."
ZACHERIAH EMERY.	

These men were paid for their services, by order of the General Court, in December, 1775. They marched on

\* From the Massachusetts Revolutionary Rolls, vol. 12, page 419.



the 19th of April, late in the afternoon, and were in the field, most of them twenty-one days.

It appears that there were two companies of minute-men in Townsend at that time.

Massachusetts revolutionary rolls, volume 12, page 42: "A Roll of the travel and service of Capt. Samuel Douglas of Townshend in the county of Middlesex and belonging to Col<sup>o</sup>. James Prescotts Regiment, and also of the men under his command, who in consequence of the alarm made on the 19th of April 1775, marched from home for y<sup>e</sup> defence of this colony against the ministerial Troops, and continued in the service till called back to take care of the Tories in s<sup>d</sup> Townsend.

"SAMUEL DOUGLAS, Captain.

JAMES HILDRETH, Drummer.

PRIVATES:

OLIVER HILDRETH.	BENJAMIN BROOKS.
JONA. HILDRETH.	ABEL FOSTER.
ABIJAH HILDRETH.	DANIEL CAMPBELL.
EPHIM ADAMS.	SAMUEL SCRIPTURE.
JOEL DAVIS.	ROBERT CAMPBELL.
ISAAC HOLDEN.	BENJAMIN ADAMS.
ABNER ADAMS.	JOSEPH GILES.
ABNER BROOKS.	ANDREW SEARLS.
BENJAMIN WILSON.	JONATHAN GOSS."

These men were in the service five days, and on the twenty-second of March, 1776, the General Court ordered them to be paid. Capt. Douglas received £1 7s. 1d., and the men 12s. 9d. 2qr., each.

It is not known beyond a doubt, why the company under command of Capt. Douglas should be so much





smaller than the other company. The men who went with Capt. Douglas *all* lived on Nissequassick hill, within a radius of less than a mile. There is reason for the belief, that Douglas, and his neighbors, were so anxious to leave for the fray, that they marched earlier in the day, with less preparation, and with only a part of the company, and that the remainder of their companions were willing to fall in under Capt. Hosley.

These rolls, in the archives, are copies of the rolls of these two companies, taken just before they were paid. The Captains made oath before Israel Hobart, Esq., that they were correct in regard to travel, term of service, and the days of the month on which the service was rendered, from which it appears that Townsend had seventy-three men who started at a moment's warning, on that memorable 19th of April, "to defend the colony against the ministerial troops."

The title of the roll of Capt. Douglas' company is instructive in regard to the feeling here among the people, at the commencement of the revolution; for it appears that this company "was called back to take care of the Tories of s<sup>d</sup> Townshend." Most of the Townsend men who did not favor the cause of American Independence, were neighbors of Douglas and his men. Further on in this work, the names of the most prominent of the tories will appear. Both of these rolls designate the British soldiers as "ministerial troops" instead of the King's troops, which rather indicates that the colonists considered that the King had bad advisers, and that the British ministry might, perhaps, be induced, in using deliberation and reason, and guided by wisdom, to reconsider some of the acts that bore so heavily upon them.



In the margin, opposite the record of a town meeting on June 19, 1775, (page 157 T. R.) the following is written: "Mr. Lock protested against the warrant coming out in the King's name." The assembling of these minute-men around Boston, in 1775, was a great advantage to the colonists, as it showed them the great need of arms, blankets, and munitions of war. The acquaintances there formed, the discussions of future operations against their enemies, and the necessity of well-concerted action, all tended to strengthen their determination to be free. A large portion of these seventy-three minute-men re-enlisted in other companies, and served more or less during the war, with different captains and in companies from different towns. The summer of 1775 was extremely dry and hot, much more so than any since the settlement of the town; there were small crops of corn and potatoes, and on dry land failed entirely; of hay not over half a crop was raised. There was also much sickness in town. Many families suffered by the diseases of dysentery and fevers, which in many cases were long and severe. The number of deaths in town was unusually large. Add to all this, the absence of so many heads of families in the army, and the keen anxiety concerning the affairs of the province, and we can have some idea of the depressed condition, the trials and struggles of this first year of the war.

The following roll contains the names of the Townsend men, who were in the battle of Bunker Hill, in Capt. Henry Farwell's company. The reader will observe that most of these soldiers marched under Capt. Hosley, as minute-men, on the 19th of April previous. This roll in the archives is some mutilated, so that two Christian



names cannot be made out. The exact chirography of this document has been preserved. The town Limbrick should have been Limerick, which was the original name of Stoddard, New Hampshire, named in honor of Col. Sampson Stoddard, one of the original grantees. The Sergeant Sartwell, of this company, and the private from Rindge, were both of the same name, and distant relatives, although their names are quite differently spelled.

About one-half of these thirty-five men from Townsend whose names appear on this roll, have descendants in this town at the present time.

A muster roll\* of the company under command of Capt. Henry Farwell, in Col. William Prescott's regiment, to the first of August, 1775 :—

HENRY FARWELL,	Groton,	Captain.
LEWIS WHITNEY,	Townshend,	1st Lieut.
BENJAMIN BALL,	Townshend,	2d Lieut.
JOSIAH STEVENS,	Groton,	Sergeant.
NATHANIEL SARTWELL,	Groton,	Sergeant.
PHINEAS HUBBARD,	Groton,	Sergeant.
EPHRAIM BROWN,	Townshend,	Sergeant.
SAMUEL LAWRENCE,	Groton,	Corporal.
AMOS FARNSWORTH,	Groton,	Corporal.
EPHRAIM WARREN,	Townshend,	Corporal.
JOSEPH PAGE,	Groton,	Corporal.
TIMOTHY STONE,	Ashby,	Drummer.
JOEL JENKINS,	Groton,	Fifer.
EPHRAIM ADAMS,	Townshend,	Private.
BENJAMIN BROOKS,	Townshend,	Private.
ISAAC BOYNTON,	Townshend,	Private.
ELEAZER BUTTERFIELD,	Townshend,	Private.
JONAS BROOKS,	Groton,	Private.
JOHN CLARK,	Townshend,	Private.

\*Revolutionary Rolls, volume 14, page 196.



MOSES CHASE,	Groton,	Private.
WILLIAM DIRUNEPHEL,	Groton,	Private.
JAMES DAVISE,	Groton,	Private.
JONAH DAVISE,	Townshend,	Private.
HENRY DUNSTER,	Townshend,	Private.
JOEL DAVISE,	Townshend,	Private.
JOHN EMERY,	Townshend,	Private.
JONAS FARMER,	Townshend,	Private.
JOSEPH FROST,	Groton,	Private.
NOAH FARWELL,	Townshend,	Private.
ABEL FOSTER,	Townshend,	Private.
DANIEL FOSTER,	Groton,	Private.
MORIAN GOULD,	Townshend,	Private.
OLIVER HILDRICK,	Townshend,	Private.
ABIJAH HILDRICK,	Townshend,	Private.
OBADIAH JINKINS,	Groton,	Private.
DAVID JINKINS,	Groton,	Private.
ZAKEOUS FARWELL,	Groton,	Private.
EBENEZER KEMP,	Groton,	Private.
ISAAC KIDDER,	Townshend,	Private.
JOHN MANNING,	Townshend,	Private.
HENRY MCNEIL,	Groton,	Private.
TIMOTHY MOORES,	Groton,	Private.
—— RICHARDS,	Townshend,	Private.
PELTIAH RUSSELL,	Coos,	Private.
NATHAN PATT,	Townshend,	Private.
JOSEPH RUMRILL,	Townshend,	Private.
EPHRAIM RUSSELL,	Groton,	Private.
EPHRAIM ROBBINS,	Groton,	Private.
ABEL RICHARDSON,	Townshend,	Private.
ANDREW RICHARDSON,	Townshend,	Private.
ISRAEL RICHARDSON,	Townshend,	Private.
JONATHAN SEARTLE,	Rindge,	Private.
DANIEL SPAULDING,	Townshend,	Private.
DANIEL SHERWIN,	Townshend,	Private.
JOSEPH WILLSON,	Townshend,	Private.
FRANCIS WHITE,	Groton,	Private.
—— WEIR,	Limbrick,	Private.





ISRAEL WHITNEY,	Groton,	Private.
JOSIAH WARREN,	Groton,	Private.
THOMAS WYMAN,	Townshend,	Private.
OLIVER WARRIN,	Townshend,	Private.
WILL <sup>m</sup> . SMITH,	Townshend,	Private.
JOHN BURGE,	Townshend,	Private.
SAMUEL WESTON,	Townshend,	Private.
JONATHAN JINKINS,	Groton,	Private.
ASA WHITE,	Groton,	Private.

As near as it can be ascertained, there were between thirty and thirty-five men constantly in the army from this town, until the British evacuated Boston, in March, 1776. One great mistake in the war of the revolution, as well as in our late rebellion, was the short term of enlistments. About as soon as some of the recruits began to be worth anything to the government they were mustered out of service.

"At a legal town meeting of the inhabitants of Townshend upon June 20th, 1776, at the Public meeting-house in said Town at two o'clock in the afternoon :

"Deacon Richard Wyer chosen moderator for said meeting ; voted unanimously that the following instructions be given to Israel Hobart Esq. Representative for said Town (viz).

"The resolve of the late assembly of this Colony recommending to the several Towns to express their minds with respect to the important and Interesting Question of American Independence, is the occasion of our giving you the following Instructions. It is with regret and anxiety of mind that we find ourselves driven to the sad alternative either to submit to Lawless Tyrany and Domination or declare Independence from that State from whome we originated and with whome we have been connected ever since we were a people, not only in Trade and Commerce but in the Strictest bonds of esteem and affection ; in this Scituation we thot ourselves happy nor did we wish the



connection dissolved untill the repeated injuries of Great Britain became Intolerable and an accommodation we conceived Impracticable. The unjust and unconstitutional Claims of Great Britain to the Colonies without their consent, and to make laws in all Cases binding upon the Colonies &c. and the most dutifull and humble petitions of the Colonies rejected with scorn and Contempt, the cruel and unjust measures pursued by the King of Great Britain and a vindictive administration in sending fleets and armies to enforce those Unjust acts and measures by fire and sword in a manner unprecidential, the tragical nineteenth of April 1775, the innocent blood since shed, the acts of Parliament declaring the colonies in a state of rebellion and the unjust and piratical Laws consequent thereon we conceive have destroyed all hopes of an accommodation with Great Britain and must we think Justify these Colonies in renouncing all connection with and dependance upon Great Britain. We therefore declare it as our clear opinion that an American Republic be formed, provided the internal government be left to the colony, and we your constituents declare ourselves ready at all times, if the Honr. Continental Congress in whose wisdom and fidelity we confide shall declare such a form of Government, to support the same at the expense of our lives and Fortunes.

"Voted to raise fifteen pound to buy powder and lead.

JAMES HOSLEY, Town Clerk."

This is an exact copy of the record in every particular, so far as orthography, use of capital letters and punctuation are concerned. The "clear opinion" of the inhabitants of this town, uttered just two weeks before Jefferson's incomparable Declaration of Independence was adopted, were in accord with that instrument.

After the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, a copy of the same, printed at Salem, was by order of the council sent to every town in the state, where they were



read from the pulpit, and then copied into the town book of records—there to remain as a perpetual memorial. This document is very neatly copied into the Townsend records, done by James Hosley, who was town clerk many years.

In October, 1776, the question was submitted to all the towns in this state, whether they were willing that the House of Representatives and Council, then existing, should frame a form of government for Massachusetts Bay. Townsend expressed an unwillingness to that measure.

At a town meeting, October 15, 1776, upon this subject, chose a committee of three men, consisting of Lieut. James Lock, Samuel Manning, and Major Henry Price, who submitted the following, which was adopted as the opinion of the town:—

“Voted that it is the opinion of this town, that although government is essential to the happiness and well-being of a people, and the powers of forming states and setting up governments is essential in the people, and that a government ought to be set up in this state as soon as possible with safety and propriety, yet, we cannot at present give our consent that the present house form a constitution or form of government for the reasons following (*viz*).

“That the act made by the late house respecting representation, by which the privilege of many towns is much enlarged, which we think gives the maritime towns a material advantage over the country towns, as the court is held at that side of the state, by which we think the mercantile part of the state has a dangerous advantage over the landed part; we therefore judge it of consequence that representation be reduced nearly to the former mode before government is set up.”



In 1776, Oliver Prescott, of Groton, was appointed a brigadier-general, and in that capacity he organized the militia of Middlesex county into eight companies, constituting a regiment of drafted soldiers under fifty years of age, and appointed its officers. Eleazer Brooks was colonel, and Micah Stone, of Framingham, lieutenant-colonel. Co. No. 8: Thomas Warren, of Townsend, captain; James Lawrence, of Pepperell, 1st lieutenant; Joseph Rockwood, of Groton, 2d lieutenant.

There were sixty men in this company, from different towns. The names of the thirteen men\* from Townsend, in this company, were:—

THOMAS WARREN, Capt.  
SAMUEL MAYNARD, Corpl.  
ROBERT WAUGH, Corpl.  
WILLIAM MANNING.  
JOEL DAVIS.  
SAMUEL WYMAN.  
JONATHAN BOWERS.

DANIEL HOLT.  
WILLIAM CLARK.  
ASA MERRIL.  
HINCHMAN WARREN.  
EPHRAIM WARREN.  
TIMOTHY WARREN.

It will be easily comprehended that, under the severe pressure of a harassing war, when all resources were heavily drawn upon to furnish arms, ammunition, clothes and provisions for the army, to supply funds for the payment of the soldiers, and to meet other expenses incident to the state of public affairs, money, among the inhabitants, was not only exceedingly scarce, but that, in consequence of the successive drafts for soldiers, laborers were in great demand, and their services commanded exorbitant prices. The result of this was that prices of all commodities, and articles of consumption, rose in proportion. There was a

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\*Massachusetts Revolutionary Rolls, vol. 21, page 55.





peculiar state of affairs. Every kind of goods was held at a high price, although no one had money to buy with. The General Court felt the pressure, and attempted to effectually apply a remedy. This body passed an act dividing the state into districts, and ordering that a committee should be chosen in each district, to fix upon the prices of labor and provisions. The prices when thus established, it should be unlawful for any one to exceed. This law operated for only a short time, and was given up by common consent. It operated unequally, and the people would not submit to it.

The towns of Groton, Shirley, Townsend, Lunenburg, and Fitchburg, composed one district, and the following are some of the prices which were affixed to some of the most important articles, by a committee of these towns:—

Labor of men in summer, per day,	\$ .50
Labor of men in winter, per day,	.25
Labor of a carpenter, per day,	.50
Wheat, per bushel,	1.11
Rye, per bushel,	.73
Corn, per bushel,	.56
Oats, per bushel,	.33
Pork, per pound,	.06
Butter, per pound,	.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Beef, per pound,	.06
Potatoes, per bushel,	.17
Good sheep's wool, per pound,	.33
Men's stockings, first quality,	1.00
Men's shoes, per pair,	1.33
Lamb, Mutton and Veal, per pound,	.04 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hay, per ton,	10.00
Pine boards, per thousand feet,	3.05
Clapboards,	10.67



Wheat flour, per 100 lbs.,	\$3.67
For a dinner, boiled and roasted,	.17
For a dinner, only one of these,	.14
For mug of West India flip,	.15 $\frac{1}{2}$
For mug of New England flip,	.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Good cider, per barrel,	1.83
Men tailors, per day,	.42
Women tailors, per day,	.15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Yard wide cotton cloth,	.58
House maids, per week,	.42
Horse for one person to ride a mile,	.03 $\frac{1}{8}$

At this time the people began to feel the heavily pressing burdens of the war, and to devise means to equalize the same among themselves. At the March meeting, 1777, the town "Voted to choose a committee of five men to estimate all the past services done in the war by the men of this town; Thomas Warren, James Hosley, Daniel Adams, Richard Wyer, and Levi Whitney were chosen for said committee."

These five men had all been in the service, and were as well qualified to discharge this duty as any persons in town. The report of this committee was adopted the next month. Some idea of the magnitude of the enterprise in which they were engaged, in daring to assert their rights, as well as the pay which the continental troops received, may be obtained from the report of this committee. It must be borne in mind, that these several sums, here expressed in English money, had more intrinsic value than the same figures would express three or four years afterward:—

Voted £6 to the eight months men at Cambridge.

Voted 12 shillings to each of the six weeks men ditto.

Voted 16 shillings to each of the two months men.



Voted £13 6s. 8d. to each of the three years continental men.

Voted £10 to each of the five months men in the western army.

Voted £2 16s. to each of the four months men for Boston service.

Voted £6 to each of the two months men for York service.

Voted £6 to each of the three months men for York service.

Voted £23 to each of the men that shall enlist into the continental service for three years or during the war, or to such as shall procure a man, or men for said service.

Voted that all the above estimates be made into a rait on the several inhabitants of this town, and that the polls pay one-half of said rait.

Voted that all such as have done more in the war service than their proportion of said rait shall have credit for what they have done, but shall have no right to call for any money out of the treasury till the further order of the town.

JAMES LOCK *Moderator.*

JAMES HOSLEY *Town Clerk.*

In addition to all other embarrassments under which the patriotic citizens were laboring, was the discouraging influence of about a dozen men in this town, who were known as tories. These men for more than two years, had clandestinely opposed all measures which tended to



resist the authority of Great Britain. They were intelligent men, most of them, and they lived on what is known as Wallace hill, also called by an Indian name in this work. During the time the minute-men were absent, after the alarm was made on the 19th of April, 1775, they were offensively outspoken and disagreeable. It was during this year that it was necessary for every man to "screw his courage up to the sticking point." Public opinion demanded that every able-bodied citizen should give an undivided support to the American cause, or be exposed to popular indignation, to prosecutions before a special Court of the Sessions of Peace, to imprisonment, or to a coat of tar and feathers. From that time such persons were watched. Occasionally they were obliged to uncover their heads, and, in presence of the assembled majesty of the town, to promise greater love for the American cause, and a strict conformity to the popular will.

The patriots were determined to remove every obstacle in the way of success and to ferret out every loyalist, who might utter a word against their cause. Accordingly a committee was chosen "to collect evidence of inimical and unfriendly persons agreeable to an act of the Great and General Court," which attended to that duty.

On the eighth of July, 1776, "Voted that the selectmen lay before the town a list of such persons as they think dangerous or unfriendly to this or the United States, or have been so since the 19th of April, 1775; and it was done.

"A List of the persons names taken by us the Subscribers and presented to the town of Townshend at a legal town meeting, agreeable to an act of the General Court, entitled an act for securing internal enemies as persons





whom we consider dangerous and unfriendly to this and the United States of America, is as follows, viz.

ERASED BY THE TOWN.	ISAAC WALLIS.	JOSHUA SMITH.
	WILLIAM WALLIS.	REUBEN TUCKER.
	DAVID HOLDEN.	SETH JOHNSON.
	<del>JONATHAN WALLIS.</del>	
	<del>EBENEZER GILES.</del>	

Townshend July 8 1777

Again August 11 1777.

JAMES HOSLEY	} Select-
RICHARD WYER	
ZACHERIAH EMERY	
LEVI WHITNEY	
THOS. WARREN	
	men of Town- shend.

JAMES HOSLEY, Town Clerk."

In this record a pen was drawn across the names of Jonathan Wallace and Ebenezer Giles, and in the margin opposite their names are these words: "erased by the town."

As a matter of policy, rather than principle, these two men, whose names are erased, "came to time" and in every particular contributed their share of wealth to assist in the American cause, rather than lose their property by confiscation. They were governed by the same advice which Polonius gave his son,

"Give thy thoughts no tongue,  
Nor any unproportioned thought his act."

Some of these Tories were arrested, taken to Townsend Harbor, and confined in a cooper-shop, which stood nearly opposite the leather-board mill at that place, where they



were guarded by a detachment of soldiers from Capt. Douglas' company. They were fed by their friends and families, during their imprisonment, which continued more than a month. It is said that as some troops from New Hampshire were passing through town, while viewing the situation of these prisoners, overheard one of them calling them rebels, which so excited these patriots, that it was with much difficulty that the guard restrained them from firing on the inmates of the shop.

Seth Johnson, whose name appears in this list, was a blacksmith, and had a shop on or near the southeast corner of Hathorn's farm. He also came over to the patriots and worked with them. Jonathan Wallis was a man of strong intellectual powers, a good judge of human nature, and he filled many important offices before and after the revolution. He outlived his unpopularity and came down into the present century, in his old age much respected. Ebenezer Giles was a large land holder, and a man of intelligence and influence. He resided on the farm now owned by Mr. Hamor Lewis. A part of the Townsend tories, when the excitement was at its height, who were not land owners, precipitantly left the town. The patriots were after them on all sides.

It is in tradition, that one night, while they were surrounding a house, after a man by the name of Searles, who lived on the northerly side of the hill, near the old burying ground, a younger brother to the man whom they were after, knocked a board off the back side of the house, jumped out, and ran in a westerly direction. The patriots immediately gave chase and came up with him near the Goss bridge, when they discovered the ruse. During the chase, the person sought for made good his



escape, and was followed in a few days by his wife. At the close of the war, a correspondence disclosed the fact, that several persons of the tory stripe, among whom were two men and their wives, belonging to Townsend, took refuge in the forests, near the Saco river, where they suffered extremely both for food and clothing, in this their self-constituted exile.

Joshua Smith was a trader, the first one in town of which there is any account. He lived at the Harbor, and occupied for a store the old house painted red, now standing on the north side of the road, nearly opposite the mill-yard. He was very obnoxious to the patriots, so much so that he was about the first man "to leave his country for his country's good" for fear of being handed over to the board of war. He had no real estate subject to confiscation.

The most prominent Townsend man, who was loyal to the crown and British ministry, was Joseph Adams, a physician. The fact appears in the Middlesex county records, that in 1774, he bought sixty-five acres of land, "situate about a mile north of the meeting house," of one, Josiah Burge. The house he lived in is the same building now occupied as a dwelling by Mr. Daniel Dix. This was just before the road was made, running nearly diagonally through the Hathorn farm, which passes by this house. The name of Dr. Adams appears only once in the town records (except in the tax-lists), and then in connection with the making of this road. His name appears in the list of Middlesex county absentees, in the Massachusetts Archives, volume 154, page 332; James Locke being appointed agent, by the Judge of Probate, to take care of the property.



Dr. Adams probably fled from town before the appointment of the committee to look after the tories. From the *Boston Gazette*, February 14, 1780:—

"Public notice is hereby given, that there will be a Lett at Public Auction, to the highest Bidder, on Thursday the 16th day of March next at One of the Clock afternoon at the house of Nathan Conant, Innholder in said Townshend; the real Estate of Joseph Adams, Physician, an absentee, consisting of a good Farm in Townshend, about 1 mile from the meetinghouse conveniently situated, with good buildings thereon, with a Pew in the meetinghouse—Also a House and about 12 Acres of Land in Pepperell, lying on the County Road. Said premises to be Leased for one year from the First Day of April next.

"Townshend Feb. 8, 1780.

JAMES LOCKE Agent."

After the close of the war, the real estate of Dr. Adams, under the confiscation act, was sold by the agent, and James Prescott and others were appointed a committee to settle with his creditors, consisting of Rev. Samuel Dix, Captain Joseph Adams, and others, of this town.\*

Lorenzo Sabine, author of the History of the Loyalists, "supposes" that this Dr. Adams was a graduate of Harvard College, in 1743. The Joseph Adams of that class died at Barnstead, New Hampshire, in 1803, but thus far nothing can be traced which goes to show, beyond a doubt, that he was once the tory of Townsend.

At the close of the war, there was considerable pressure on the part of absentees, or runaway tories, from all parts of the country, for the privilege of returning to the places that were once their homes. To this the patriots never consented.

\*Archives, volume 155, page 54.





On April 17th, 1783, the town of Boston sent the following letter and a copy of the proceedings of a meeting at Faneuil Hall, concerning the absentees:—

"To the committee of correspondence &c. the selectmen of the Town or Plantation of Townsend to be communicated to the Town or Plantation.

"GENTLEMEN: By the enclosed Resolve, transmitted to you by the directions of this town at their late meeting, you may form some judgement of their sentiments respecting the absentees, and your Wisdom and Patriotism will determine as to the Propriety and Usefulness of coming into the same or similar Resolves.

"This town does not presume to dictate to any of their Sister Towns, but they always received with pleasure, their Sentiments with respect to what concerns the public Good. The advantages that have been derived from thus freely communicating the sentiments of each other, during the late Struggle with our most inveterate internal and external Enemies, are of too great Magnitude to need pointing out.

"We sincerely congratulate you that through the Favor of Providence, we are now like, if not wanting to ourselves, to reap the glorious Fruits of the Blood and Treasure we have freely offered, by a Peace, in all its particulars, fully answerable to our most sanguine Expectations.

"Our Happiness as a Nation, will, however, under GOD, depend principally upon preserving our Morals and our Manners, and maintaining good Faith and Friendship with our natural and generous Allies, the French, who reached out to us their supporting Hand in the Hour of our Distress, and whose interest it is to maintain the



Independence of our Country and the Freedom of our Fishery and Navigation.

"In order to this we must timely and cautiously guard against the Machinations and influence of our late Enemies the Britons; and surely the British King cannot have more Subservient Tools and Emmessaries amongst us for the purpose of sowing the Seeds of Dissention in this infant Nation, and disaffecting us to our magnanimous and faithful Ally, the Monarch of France, than the generality of the Refugees, whose inveteracy to him, and deceit and cruelty to their Countrymen have been manifest as the Light.

"The inhabitants of this Town do, therefore, in general, most heartily deprecate their return. Alarmed by a late attempt of a number of the obnoxious Refugees to land at Dartmouth, and by Reports that interest was making for the return of others to their Estates, the Rights of citizenship and the enjoyment of that Happiness they had been the main instruments of making us thus long sorely toil and bleed for, has excited this vigilance and care to prevent their Return.

"They have, therefore, requested the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety, to keep a watchful Eye, in order to discover such intruders, that Informations may be immediately given to proper authority, that they may be dealt with as the Law directs. They have not presumed to draw the line between any Classes of Conspirators and Absentees, as that will be the Business of Government; they have only directed the committee to pursue the directions of Congress, and the Laws of this Commonwealth, as it was before their duty to do, till this line shall be drawn.



"And we cannot but flatter ourselves that it will appear to you, that this town have herein discovered that Judgement, Firmness and Patriotism in the common Cause of their Country, which early distinguished them in their Opposition to the Measures pursued by Britain for their slavery and Ruin. We shall feel happy to be informed that your Town will so far approve of our conduct, as to adopt similar Measures for the Interest, Quiet and Safety of this and the other United States, and we have the honor to subscribe ourselves your most obedient Humble Servents

NAT'L BARBER

Chairman Per Order."

"Boston, April 10, 1783.

"At a meeting of the freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duly qualified and legally warned in public Town Meeting, assembled at Faneuil Hall, by adjournment, April 7, 1783.

"Whereas by a Resolve of the Legislature of this Commonwealth, passed on the 13th of February, 1776, the several Towns were directed and empowered, at their annual meetings in March, to choose Committees of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety, whose business (among other things) is to communicate Matters of Importance to Committees of the same Denomination, to any other town, county or state, or to the General Assembly or Council.

"And Whereas the present circumstance of the United States requires, that committees so appointed should use



their utmost Industry and Care to effect the great and important Purposes of their appointment, at a time when Interest is making for the readmitting Absentees and Conspiritors, to return into this and other of the United States : *Therefore—*

"RESOLVED, That this Town will at all times, (as they have done) to the utmost of their Power, Oppose every Enemy to the just Rights and Liberties of Mankind : And that after so wicked a Conspiracy against those Rights and Liberties, by certain Ingrates, most of them Natives of these States, and who have been Refugees and declared Traitors to their Country,—it is the Opinion of this Town, that they ought never to be suffered to return, but be excluded from having Lot or Portion among us.

"And the Committee of Correspondence are hereby requested, as by the law of this Commonwealth they are fully empowered to write to the several Towns in this Commonwealth, and desire them to come into the same, or similar Resolves if they shall think fit.

Att. WILLIAM COOPER Town Clerk."

Townsend, at a town meeting on the twelfth of May following, voted not to allow the return of the absentees, and that the selectmen communicate the vote of the town to the town of Boston. All the towns on the coast, as well as Boston, had more interest in the return of these Tories than the inland towns, for more of them belonged to these towns.\*

It is in history, that on the thirtieth of April, 1775, Gen. Gage made a proposal, "that those persons in the

\* From the *Boston Gazette*, Sept. 1, 1781. "Joseph Adams, Physician, and John Smith, Trader, both of Townshend, were forbidden to return."





country who inclined to move into Boston with their effects, might have liberty to do so without molestation." To this the Provincial Congress assented, and "officers were appointed to grant permits, and a large number of 'tories,' as they were called by the patriots, availed themselves to seek the shelter of the British guns."

There are good reasons for supposing, that two or more of the Townsend tories took advantage of this chance of escape, for their names, as far as is known, never afterward appeared on any records of the town.

We now resume the account of the labors of the patriots.

It is impossible for the people of the present day, being removed a century from "the time that tried men's souls," to realize how completely that struggle called into exercise every resource, and the entire energy of every individual throughout the town. No matter how low his condition, and how limited his means for supporting himself and his family, every man was called upon to act—to exert himself to the extent of his ability, or be considered a tory. Poverty was no shield against liability to engage in the common cause. The poorest day laborer, though clothed in rags, was required to arouse and render his help in the defence of his country. Men of money were obliged, by law as well as by public opinion, to open their purses, as well as to give neat cattle for beef, salt pork, rye meal, commissary stores, and everything necessary for army supplies.

The women of that period were equally patriotic and strained every nerve in the American cause. One instance, among thousands, of the devotion of the fair sex to the cause of freedom, displayed by the New England women,



which occurred in Townsend, is worthy of record. The narrator was a daughter of James Lock, Esq. :—

"Late one afternoon of one of the last days in May, 1777, when I was a few months short of fifteen years old, notice came to Townsend, where my father used to live, that fifteen soldiers were wanted.

"The train band was instantly called out, and my brother, next older than myself, was one that was selected. He did not return till late that night when all were in bed. When I arose in the morning, I found my mother in tears, who informed me that my brother John was to march the day after to-morrow, at sunrise. My father was at Boston, in the Massachusetts Assembly. Mother said that though John was supplied with summer clothes, he must be away seven or eight months, and would suffer for want of winter garments. There was at this time, no store, and no articles to be had, except such as each family would make itself. The sight of a mother's tears always brought all the hidden strength of the mind to action. I immediately asked her what garments were needful. She replied, 'pantaloons.' 'Oh, if that is all,' said I, 'we will spin and weave him a pair before he goes.'

"'Tut,' said my mother, 'the wool is on the sheep's back, and the sheep are in the pasture.'

"I immediately turned to a younger brother, and bade him take a salt-dish and call them to the yard.

"Mother replied, 'Poor child, there are no sheep shears within three miles and a half.'

"'I have some small shears at the loom,' said I.

"'But we cannot spin and weave it in so short a time.'

"'I am certain we can, mother.'

"'How can you weave it? There is a long web of linen in the loom.'

"'No matter I can find an empty loom.'

"By this time the sound of the sheep made me quicken my steps toward the yard. I requested my sister to bring



me wheel and cards, while I went for the wool. I went to the yard with my brother, and secured a white sheep, from which I sheared, with my loom shears, half enough for the web; we then let her go with the rest of the flock. I sent the wool in with my sister. Luther ran off for a black sheep, and held her while I cut off wool for my filling and half the warp, and then we allowed her to go with the remaining part of her fleece. The wool thus obtained was duly carded and spun, washed, sized and dried; a loom was found a few doors off, the web got in, woven and prepared, and the pantaloons were cut and made, two or three hours before my brother's departure; that is to say, in forty hours from the commencement, without help from any modern improvement."

The lady closed by saying, "I felt no weariness, I wept not—I was serving my country; I was assisting poor mother; I was preparing a garment for my darling brother. The garment being finished, I retired and wept till my overcharged heart was relieved."

James Locke, the father of the lady who gave this account of her brother John's pantaloons, moved from Townsend, to Sullivan, New Hampshire, in 1784, where he died, 1808, aged 78. The heroine of this story, his daughter, Miss Eunice Locke, about that time married a man by the name of Richards, who resided in Townsend a year or more. Her husband died in middle age, and she survived him and died somewhere in the state of Michigan, at an advanced age. She is represented as possessing much intelligence combined with great perseverance, and a winning, lady-like modesty.

John, her brother, for whom the garment was made, was born 1761. After serving in the war at two or three different calls upon the town for men, and before peace



was declared, he joined a privateer, and died of the yellow fever at the island of Antigua, in 1783, aged 22.

This family lived about a mile and a half northeasterly from the Harbor, on the west side of the road that runs almost on the line between the towns of Pepperell and Townsend.

"STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS. \*Capt. James Hosley's Muster Roll of Volunteers who turned out of the towns of Townshend, Pepperell and Ashby and marched with him to the assistance of Major General Gates, agreeable to a Resolve of the General Court of said State upon September 22d 1777 in the Regiment whereof Jonathan Reed is Colonel.

JAMES HOSLEY, Capt.	ABRAM CLARK, Lieut.	Militia.
ASA KENDALL, Lieut.	ABNER ADAMS, Sergt.	
NATH <sup>l</sup> SARTELL, Lieut.	NATH <sup>l</sup> BAILEY, Sergt.	
DANIEL ADAMS, Clerk.	DAVID HEYWOOD, Sergt.	
THOMAS SHATTUCK, Sergt.	ELIJAH WYMAN, Sergt.	
ASA SHEDD, Sergt.	BENJ <sup>l</sup> ADAMS, Corpl.	
LEMUEL PATTS, Sergt.	JEDEDIAH JEWETT, Corpl.	
BENJAMIN WHITNEY, Sergt.	JOSEPH LAWRENCE, Corpl.	
WILLIAM STEVENS, Corpl.	JOSEPH SHATTUCK, Corpl.	
THOMAS FISK, Corpl.	JOHN BOYNTON.	
SAMUEL STONE, Corpl.	JOSEPH BALDWIN.	Privates.
ABEL RICHARDSON, Corpl.	ABNER BROOKS.	
WILLIAM PRESCOTT, Esq.	ABRAHAM BOYNTON.	
formerly Colonel.	SAMPSON BOWERS.	
HENRY WOOD, Esq.	JONAS BALDWIN.	
formerly Major.	DANIEL BUTTERFIELD.	
SAMUEL STONE,	ISAAC BLOOD.	
Major in the Militia.	DANIEL CLARK.	

\*Massachusetts Revolutionary Rolls, vol. 19, page 177.





JAMES CAMPBELL.		JOHN LOCKE.	
JOHN EMERY.		JOHN MANNING.	
JOHN EATON.		JOHN STEVENS.	
ISAAC FARRAR.		RICHARD STEVENS.	
JONAS FARMER.		SAMUEL SEWARD.	
JAMES GILES.		NATH <sup>l</sup> . SARTELL, JR.	
JAMES GREEN.		DANIEL SHERWIN, JR.	
JAMES HILLDRITH.	Privates.	WILLIAM TARBELL.	
BENJ <sup>a</sup> BALL.		SAMUEL WRIGHT, JR.	Privates.
JOSHUA HOSLEY.		JOSEPH WALKER.	
SAMUEL HENSHAW.		JACOB WRIGHT.	
ABEL HILDRETH.		TIMOTHY WARREN.	
BENJ <sup>a</sup> . HUDSON.		POMP PHILLIS.	
DANIEL JEWELL.		JOHN EMERSON.	
ASA KENDALL, JR.		NATHAN LOVEJOY.	
DAVID LOCKE.		TIMOTHY HODGMAN."	
THOMAS LAWRENCE.			

These volunteers were in the service one month and fifteen days, and the pay of the soldiers was £3 15s., that of the officers being about sixty per cent. more than that sum. This was one of the most efficient military companies, that went to the war, from this part of Middlesex county, Col. Prescott, the hero of Bunker Hill, and two of his subordinate officers were in the ranks of this corps, which on the seventeenth of October, 1777, assisted in surrounding the haughty Burgoyne, at Saratoga.

Pomp Phillis, whose name appears in this roll, was a servant of one of the privates from Pepperell, in this company, and a few of this black man's descendants may now be found in Temple, New Hampshire, and perhaps in other places. Nearly all the men under Capt. Hosley had previously been in the service.

The soldiers who performed guard duty at Cambridge, while the British prisoners captured by Gen. Gates



army, were quartered there, were drafted from the militia. The names of the Townsend men have not been found, although it is beyond a doubt that the town was represented at that point.

In January, 1778, the town "approved the articles of confederation between the United States of America," and instructed their representative "to give his vote in the General Court in compliance therewith."

The town, during the war, kept up their "committee of correspondence, inspection and safety." In 1778, James Lock, Samuel Manning, Lemuel Petts, Daniel Adams, Jr., and Samuel Maynard, were said committee. At this meeting "voted to give forty pounds to each of the last ten continental men that were hired in this town." In March, 1778, "voted that the selectmen provide for the wives of Messrs. Ephraim Warren, Jr., Solomon Parce, William Stacy, John Sloan, and all others, agreeably to the Court's act for providing for the families of such persons as are in the continental service."

This record is instructive in showing, not only the promptness of the town in complying with the act of the Assembly, but the politeness of the town clerk in calling these poor patriots, *Messrs.*, who had "periled all in the sacred cause of freedom."

During this year, 1778, town meetings followed in rapid succession; the fourth one, on May 11th, was called "to see if the town will come into some method that will be effectual to raise the men, called for of said town, for the public service by the resolves of the General Court April 20 1778." At this meeting "Voted to give £130 to each of the continental men, and eighty pounds to each of the militia men."



It must be kept in remembrance that when the war commenced, the enthusiasm of the people was at its height and the pay was good ; after this period it became necessary to resort to some regular system for keeping our quota good. Besides, the seat of war was so much farther from home than at first, that there was more dread to enlist in the service.

Townsend then had two militia companies, organized about 1774, known as the North Company and the South Company. These companies are called the "training bands" in the records. The men of the town were enrolled from sixteen to sixty-five years of age, in these two companies, the dividing line between the two companies being the old county road. Whenever a call was made for troops from this town, these companies would meet and equalize the number of men each company was obliged to furnish. Generally, the soldiers from this town, during this year, received bounties, but some went for less bounty than was offered by the town at that time. In some instances members of these two companies cast lots among themselves to see who should go. The man upon whom the lot fell had to shoulder his musket and march, or hire a substitute. The number of men who could afford to hire substitutes was limited. One feature is worth recording : Townsend sent no men to the war except its own sons and citizens.

In May, 1778, the State Constitution was submitted to the people for their approval or disapproval. Townsend voted : for the constitution fifty-one, against it two. Considering the importance of the subject, this would seem a small vote for a town of more than six hundred inhabitants ; but it must be recollected that a large number of voters were



in the army. In June, more men were called for, to reinforce the army in Rhode Island. In these trying times so great was the demand for the sinews of war, that an article was inserted in the warrant: "To see if the town will sell the school Lot." This article was passed over. At all these town meetings the war was the all-absorbing subject, in regard to raising and paying the men. The committee to estimate the services done by the citizen soldiery in the war was active during the year, according to the vote of the town.

The year 1779 was equally eventful. At this time, the depreciation of the currency was *the* trouble. The following brief extract describes the affairs, at that time, in a masterly manner:—

"At the commencement of the war, gold and silver were scarce articles; and it was soon found that if something could not be devised as a substitute for the precious metals, the patriots must give up the contest, and surrender all hope of gaining Independence. Congress ordered the issuing of notes, or bills, to a large amount, promising to redeem them at a convenient season. This currency, called Continental Money, soon came into extensive circulation. The bills, instead of being executed in the elegant style of our bank note engravings, were rude, coarse prints on coarser paper, and consequently were easily counterfeited. The British, actuated by the double motive of making money and ruining the credit of our government, flooded the country with counterfeits, so well executed that they could not be distinguished from the true ones. In 1777, the bills began to depreciate; and all intelligent men soon saw that it would be impossible for the government ever to fulfil their pledge of redeeming them. The government, not being able, or not choosing to devise any other means to raise the credit of the bills,





in an evil hour made them a legal tender for the payment of all debts due.

"The consequence of this measure may be seen at a glance. Never, since the time of the flood, were debtors more ready and anxious to pay their debts, or creditors more unwilling to receive their money. Of money, such as it was, there was no scarcity, and miserably poor was he who could not count his thousands. Then was the sun of prosperity darkened upon the prospects of those upon whom it is usually supposed to shine with peculiar favor. I refer to the lenders of money. Hundreds who before were in comfortable circumstances—more than supported by the income of their money—experienced the singular satisfaction of having every debt paid them, and while gazing upon their masses of money, reflecting that they were reduced to poverty."

In June, 1779, a town meeting was called, with this article in the warrant: "To see what the town will give to the men for the nine months continental service, rather than proceed to a draught." On this article "Voted to offer each Soldier of our quota of the nine months men, 1000 Dollars, or 90 Bushels of Rye."

The average number of men which the town kept in the field from this time to the end of the war is not accurately known, but probably the number will not vary much from twenty. There is little on record concerning this; and it would be equally difficult to ascertain the amount of money paid the soldiers by the town, inasmuch as the value of the continental money varied all the time. Besides the expense of taking care of the families of about one-third of these men, which bore heavily on the town, can never be estimated.

The following list of names is the only roll to be found in the records of Townsend: "Names of the six



months men in the continental service for 1780—Travel 220 miles :—

ELEAZER BUTTERFIELD.	JONATHAN WHEELOCK.
WILLIAM STACEY.	BENJAMIN HILL.
ISAAC SPALDING.	TIMOTHY SHATTUCK.
JOHN SHERWIN.	BENJ <sup>A</sup> WEATHERBEE."
PETER ADAMS.	

While the continental scrip was rapidly depreciating in value, the people of Massachusetts did their utmost to arrest its shrinkage and to keep the prices of goods and labor where they then were.

The prominent men, one or two from each town, in this part of the Commonwealth, met in convention at Concord, in July, and again in October of this year, "to state the prices of the necessities of life." This was merely a repetition of a similar arrangement two years before this time; the difference being a tenfold increase of prices from that time. It is as difficult to legislate soundness into a paper currency as it is piety into a politician. Public opinion and common sense will scrutinize the intrinsic value, the real gold which each contains. The convention at Concord, in October, fixed the prices for the towns in this neighborhood with much precision. The prices of these "necessaries of life" are in part, as follows, beginning as here inserted :—

West India Rum, per gallon,	£6 11s.
New England Rum, per gallon,	4 18s.
Molasses, per gallon,	4 15s.
Tea, per pound,	6 00s.



They appeared to have forgotten about throwing tea overboard. Everything in this list, long as the previous one, was in proportion, in regard to price, with the foregoing articles. Beans were worth £5 2s., wheat £7 13s., and near the end of the list may be found "West India Philip," per mug, 15s., and the last article on the schedule is "Cyder," per mug, 2s.

The resolutions (now on record, vol. 2, town records, page 190,) passed by the town in 1779, concerning the price of labor and goods were similar to those passed by other towns at that period:—

"1st. Resolved that this town will use its utmost endeavors, to carry the resolves of the aforesaid convention (at Concord) into execution, and if any shall be so lost to public virtue and the common interest of America, as to violate said resolves, or any of them, we will view them as enemies of mankind, unworthy to enjoy the benefits of society, and we will withdraw all connections and correspondence from them."

Four other resolves following this are equally pointed. The names of those, who, in any sale, violated this list of prices, were "to be posted up in some public place in this and the adjacent towns," and "published in one of the Boston News Papers." Exchanging gold and silver for paper money at unequal rates, subjected the names of the offenders to the same publicity.

These patriots exhibited the utmost solicitude and the deepest feeling concerning their currency. That men of intelligence should then for a moment suppose, that any action similar to that taken in this case, would in the least increase the value of the scrip, or, would materially alter



the course of trade, is not easily understood. The currency depreciated as follows:—

January 1778, \$1.00 in <i>specie</i> equalled	\$4.50 <i>continental</i> .
January 1779, \$1.00 in " equalled	\$8.34 "
January 1780, \$1.00 in " equalled	\$32.50 "
January 1781, \$1.00 in " equalled	\$166.00 "

This last comparison between the two only held good for a few weeks. In July, 1781, the town "Voted to raise £40000 to defray the charges of the war, and other charges," and "£6000 to make up the salary of Rev. Mr. Dix." In June, of the same year, the town "Voted to reduce £15000 raised last May to defray town charges, into £200 silver money to be assessed and to be paid in silver, or paper, at the legal exchange, as those that pay may choose." On January 11th, 1782, an article was put in the warrant "To see if the town will order the constables not to receive any more paper money upon a town rate." On this, "Voted that Capt. Ball settle the town rates now in his hands that are yet unsettled at the rate of one silver dollar in Lieu of 85 paper dollars." This was a specified sum agreed upon by the town in that particular case, and does not express the real value of scrip, which was then almost worthless.

The collection of the foregoing facts in regard to the Revolutionary War, has been attended with much slow, plodding research, in investigating old manuscripts and documents outside of anything afforded by the records of the town. The writer has been unable to do justice, either to the subject, or the determined people of Townsend, who, at a moment's warning, and at different times, grasped their rude muskets and swords, and started to





defend their hearthstones—their altars against the invaders.

It has been impossible to give\* the names of all the men who filled the quotas at the different calls on the State for soldiers. Neither can the names of all the persons who lost their lives in that conflict be correctly ascertained. Townsend lost six or seven men in this war, and among that number were James Hosley, (quite a young man), Israel Richardson, John Locke, and three others. Everything considered, the record of this town stands well, compared with the other towns in the Commonwealth. Within the bosom of the town was a nest of Tories which caused them much trouble, but still its quota was always full. The best men of the town, the town clerks, the selectmen, its representatives to the General Court, all took their turn in the continental army.

But the retrospect grows dim and shadowy as we turn back through the eventful years of the century that has gone.

“Oh checkered train of years, farewell,  
With all thy strifes, and hopes, and tears;  
But with us let the memories dwell  
To warn and teach the coming years.”



## CHAPTER VIII.

### *THE SHAYS REBELLION.*

Causes which Led to the Revolt—Mob at Springfield—Excitement in Worcester County—The People of Concord in Fear of the Insurgents—Letter from Concord to the Neighboring Towns—Town Meetings and Committees at this Time—Job Shattuck and his Subalterns—Stopping the Courts—Capture of Shattuck—List of the Shays Men Belonging to Townsend—Peter Butterfield—Luke Day the Leading Spirit of the Insurrection—Daniel Shays.

At the close of the revolution, the country was in a demoralized condition. Almost all the available wealth of the people, at the commencement of the war, had been expended to feed, clothe, and pay the troops. There was much dissatisfaction among the soldiers at being paid off in a worthless currency. The increase of the indebtedness of the towns and of individuals, the scarcity of money, the decay of business, numerous lawsuits, and a want of confidence in the government, particularly in regard to matters of finance, generated a depressed state of feeling, which caused great anxiety among the people. This state of feeling, in some degree, was coextensive with the commonwealth. People began to express great disapprobation of the manner in which the government was



administered, and a revolt was freely discussed, as early as 1782. In Northampton, the insurgents were rather numerous. They were headed by a disappointed and disaffected clergyman, by the name of Ely, who understood all the arts of the demagogue.

In 1783, a mob assembled in the town of Springfield, resolving itself into a general convention. Proceeding to the court house, on the appearance of the judges and sheriff, they opposed their entrance to that building. A riot was prevented by the timely intervention of some of the most influential citizens there present.

For the next three years "the distressed state of affairs," as expressed in the Townsend records, continued.

In 1786, at a convention of insurgents, assembled in Worcester county, at Leicester, thirty-seven towns were represented, which, without any interruption, freely discussed the propriety of obstructing the sitting of the General Court at Boston; the closing of the county courts by force; law abuses; and other subjects.\*

In the counties of Middlesex, Bristol, and Berkshire, similar conventions were held, and votes and resolves passed. On September 5, 1786, a mob prevented the session of the court at Worcester.

The voters in the towns of Groton, Pepperell, Shirley, and Townsend, were about equally divided on this subject. The town of Concord, where the court was then in session, was much excited, dreading the expected approach of the rebels against the state authorities. A majority of that town were in sympathy with the insurgents. Concord

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\* Holland's Western Mass.



addressed the following letter to most of the towns in this county, and Townsend among the number :—

"To the Town of Townsend.

"GENTLEMEN: Alarmed at the threatening aspect of our public affairs, this town has this day held a meeting, and declared unanimously their utter disapprobation of the disorderly proceedings of a number of persons in the counties of Hampshire and Worcester, in preventing the action of the courts. And apprehending the like may be attempted in this county, and probably be attended with very dangerous consequences, we have thought it advisable to endeavor in conjunction with as many of the neighboring towns, as we can give seasonable information to, by lenient measures, to dissuade from such rash conduct as may involve the state in anarchy and confusion, and the deprecated horrors of civil war. We conceive the present uneasiness of the people to be not altogether groundless; and although many designing men, enemies of the present government, may wish and actually are fomenting uneasiness among the people, yet we are fully persuaded, that the views of by far the greater part, are to obtain redress of what they conceive to be real grievances. And since the method they have taken cannot fail of meeting the hearty disapprobation of every friend of peace and good order, we cannot but hope, from what we know of the strenuous exertions, which have been made by the towns around us, and in which those disorders above mentioned now exist, to purchase at the expense of blood our independence, and the great unanimity with which they have established our present government; and from what we know of the real grounds





of their complaints; were lenient measures used, and a number of towns united to endeavor, by every rational argument, to dissuade those who may seem refractory from measures which tend immediately to destroy the fair fabric of our government, and to join in legal and constitutional measures to obtain redress of what may be found real grievances; they would be attended with happy effects.

"We have therefore chosen a committee to act in concert with the neighboring towns, for the purpose of mediating between opposing parties, should they meet. And we cannot but hope, our united endeavors to support the dignity of government and prevent the effusion of blood, will meet with general approbation, and be attended with happy consequences.

"If the above should meet with your approbation, we request you to choose some persons to meet a committee of this town, chosen for that purpose, at the house of Captain Oliver Brown, innholder in Concord on Monday evening or Tuesday morning next, that we may confer together, and adopt measures which may be thought best calculated for the attainment of the end above proposed.

"We are gentlemen, with great esteem and friendship your humble servants.

JOSEPH HOSMER

in behalf of the towns committee

Concord Sept 9 1786"

Townsend, during this period, was in a state of great perplexity, judging from the records of many town meetings. In May, 1786, a warrant was posted calling a town meeting on the fifth of June following, when a committee of five men was chosen, "to draft public grievances."



consisting of David Spafford, Jonathan Wallace, Daniel Adams, Benjamin Ball, and Thomas Seaver. The first and last named gentlemen on this committee were disaffected men; the other three were opposed to the insurrection. At the same meeting chose the same men as "a committee to confer with other towns," and then adjourned to the twenty-sixth of the same month. Met at the adjournment, and adjourned for two weeks. At this adjourned meeting, the town "chose two men to attend a convention (of insurgents) to be holden at Concord on the twenty-third of August."

There is no record of anything like a response to the letter sent to Townsend by the town of Concord. On the twelfth of September, three days after the date of this letter, the insurgents marched into Concord and forcibly stopped the court. The "head centre" of the insurrection, in Middlesex county, was Job Shattuck, of Groton, assisted by Nathan Smith and John Kelsey, of Shirley, and Peter Butterfield, of Townsend. Shattuck served in the French war, and was a captain in the revolution. Smith, Kelsey, and Butterfield, his lieutenants, were military men, and had all been officers either in the militia or the continental service. Each of these men were well qualified to be conspicuous in such a cause.

Meeting with no resistance in stopping the court at Concord, their deportment was insolent and offensive, in the extreme, towards the judges, the members of the bar, and every one not disposed to be in sympathy with them. The court being about to be holden at Cambridge, the Governor ordered the militia to be in readiness to march to that place. At this time says a historian, "An influential character in Middlesex undertook to make an agreement



with the leaders of that county, that no forces should appear on either side, and wrote a letter to the governor on this subject, to their satisfaction. Shattuck broke this agreement and arranged for a larger number of men to be collected from Bristol and Worcester counties."

"Pursuant to this new scheme (the same historian) a small party of Middlesex insurgents, headed by Oliver Parker (Job Shattuck, their former Captain, coming in a secret manner in order to avoid the appearance of breaking his agreement) marched into the town of Concord. Upon their arrival, Shattuck proceeded in the night to Weston, to get intelligence of the Worcester forces, but though they had begun their march, they did not appear, and from this want of co-operation the whole plan fell through."

At this juncture, when an effort to stop the court, located so near the capital of the state, was nearly a success, without any further parley, or chance for the insurgents to rally their scattered forces, "warrants were issued for apprehending the head men of the insurgents, in Middlesex, and for imprisoning them without bail or mainprise." A company of horse was ordered from Boston to assist the Sheriff in the capture of Shattuck and his officers, which, on its arrival at Concord, was reinforced by a party of mounted men from Groton, under Col. Henry Woods. This force succeeded in capturing two prisoners, Oliver Parker and Benjamin Page, but failed to find Shattuck during the day, as he had taken alarm and escaped. "Under this disappointment, at midnight, in the midst of a violent snow-storm, the whole party were ordered on to Shattuck's house, in Groton, where they did not arrive till late in the morning. A



search was immediately commenced, and judicious pursuit discovered him to a party of a few persons led by Col. Woods himself. Shattuck obstinately resisted and was not taken till he had received several wounds, which he returned without much injury.\*

The following list of the Townsend insurgents has been preserved among the papers on file with the town records. It is worthy of notice that about one-fourth of the persons in this list were young men in their minority. Fourteen of them had the suffix of Jr. to their names. Abraham Butterfield, the son of Peter, was less than seventeen years of age, and some of them less than sixteen years old. Many of these persons were the best men of the town, misguided though they were:—

Peter Butterfield.	Nathan Conant, Jr.
Asa Heald.	Isaac Wallis, Jr.
Samuel Stevens.	Reuben Gaschett.
Jonas Warren.	Benjamin Dix.
Jacob Bachelder.	William Stevens, Jr.
Benja. Spaulding, Jr.	David Wallace.
Andrew Searle, Jr.	James Ball.
Daniel Clark.	Asa Whitney.
Simeon Richardson.	Isaac Wallis.
John Emery.	Joseph Baldwin, Jr.
Ephm. Lambson.	Phineas Baldwin.
Jonathan Pierce.	David Spafford, 3d.
Asa Stevens.	Solomon Parce.
Isaac Lewis.	John Conant.
Andrew Searls.	Benja. Wood.
Jedediah Jewett.	Nathan Carlton.
Elijah Dodge.	Samuel Searles.
Jesse Baldwin.	David Spafford.
Nathaniel Bailey, Jr.	Eben'r Ball, Jr.

\*It is said that Shattuck was taken on the ice in the Nashua River, near the New Hampshire line.





Zackery Hildreth.	Abraham Ball.
Aaron Proctor.	James Sloan.
Phillip Warren.	Richard Warner.
Isaac Green.	John Waugh, Jr.
Isaac Giles.	Joel Davis.
Solomon Sherwin.	Jeremiah Ball.
Azariah P. Sherwin.	Charles Richards.
Peter Adams.	Jesse Maynard.
Joseph Rumrill.	Nathl Bowers.
Jonathan Sanderson.	Josiah Rice.
Thomas Sever.	Abraham Butterfield.
Josiah Burge, Jr.	John Campbell, Jr.
Moses Burge.	Jonas Campbell.
Abijah Monroe.	John Colburn.
Abel Keys.	John Graham.
Elnathan Spalding.	Benja. Brooks, Jr.
Josiah Richardson.	Thad's Spaulding.
Levi Whitney.	Abijah Hildreth.
Benja. Wallace.	Abel Green.
Moses Warren.	Isaac Spalding.
Isaac Farrar, Jr.	William Wallace.
Stephen Warren.	John Giles.
Jonas Ball.	Aaron Scott.

About thirty of the young men, whose names appear in the above list, marched to Concord under Lieut. Peter Butterfield, and were present at the time the court was stopped.

A strict search, in and around Townsend, was made for Butterfield, by the *posse-comitatus* under Colonel Woods when Shattuck was taken, but he eluded his pursuers. During a part of this winter, he secreted himself in a cabin masked with evergreens, on the hill northwesterly from his house, in plain sight of the same, where he was apprised of approaching danger by signals from his



wife. At length his retreat was discovered, and his pursuers followed his track on the snow till nearly night, when, getting into a secluded place in a thicket, in the dusk of the evening, they lost sight of his track and abandoned further pursuit. After he was satisfied that his enemies had departed, he took a direct course for the house of one of his friends, who immediately took him over the line into New Hampshire. His exertions to escape flooded him with perspiration, so that waiting, in a frosty atmosphere, to be sure that the officers had gone, he took a violent cold, which induced rheumatism, from which he suffered more or less during the remainder of his life. He never was arrested by the officers, and there is no certificate from any magistrate, showing that he took the oath of allegiance, to be found, although the same file of papers in which these names were found, contains the certificates of different magistrates, before whom sixty of these men took that oath. He was a man of excellent moral character, very industrious, and had many friends.

The leading spirit of this insurrection, in Massachusetts, was Luke Day, of Springfield. He had been a captain in the revolution, and was a popular bar room orator in that town.

Daniel Shays, from whom the outbreak takes its name, was born in Hopkinton, 1747. After his rebellion was crushed he fled to Vermont, and afterwards moved to Sparta, New York, where he died September 29, 1825. He was a pensioner of the United States, having been a captain in the revolution.

Perhaps there never was so much smoke and so little fire, or so small a show of talent or brains in any insurrection as in the Shays Rebellion. The insurgents appeared



to dread a collision with the troops, during the whole time they were in arms against the government. All the losses in this rebellion were—three killed, and one hundred and fifty taken prisoners—all Shays men.

At the next session of the General Court (1787), an alteration of certain laws was effected, which made everything satisfactory to the entire voting population of the Commonwealth.



## CHAPTER IX.

### *EDUCATIONAL HISTORY.*

Early Action of the Town to Preserve the "Candlewood"—Home Instruction in the Log-Cabins—First Record of Any Effort to Establish a Public School—First School-House—Account of Several of the School-Houses—Division of the Town into "Nine Squadrons" in 1783—First School Committee in 1796—West Townsend Female Seminary—Townsend Academy—General Interest in Education—Names of Some Prominent Teachers—Sketch of Hon. Seth Davis.

The settlers of this town, in common with the citizens of all the towns in this Commonwealth, displayed much sagacity in all matters concerning their future welfare. As early as 1734, the proprietors' records contained the following:—

"Voted that Jasher Wyman, Lieut. Daniel Taylor and Nathaniel Richardson be a com<sup>tee</sup> to take effectual care that there be no Strip or Waste made of Timber—or Timber cutt—or Pines boxed, or Candlewood picked up for tarr, upon y<sup>e</sup> undivided Land; and to sue and Prosecute any persons whom they shall find Guilty of said offences. Also to prosecute any persons who have been Guilty thereof, or take satisfaction therefor for y<sup>e</sup> use of y<sup>e</sup> proprietors."





In connection with these precautionary measures, one interesting fact may be learned from this extract, and that is, the importance that was attached to the value of the "candlewood," or resinous pitch-pine, scattered on the undivided land.

Families, at that time, were generally quite large, and almost every one of them constituted a school by itself. Around the capacious fireplaces, common in those days, sat the sons and daughters, in order, according to their age and advancement, while the father or mother acted as teacher. Their cabin walls, and the shining faces of youth and beauty within, were illumined through the long winter evenings by the pine knot light; and no one can say that this training, in their rude domicils, was not sufficient to furnish the town with amiable women and honorable men. Every opportunity for intellectual improvement, within their limited means, was then turned to their advantage, and a complete exemplification of the maxim "where there is a will there is a way" has come down to us in their example.

The first record of any effort for a public school was in 1744, when the town "Voted to raise twenty pounds old tenor for the support of a school, and chose two men as a committee to provide a school-master: John Conant chosen first, Josiah Robbins second." The record further states where the school should be kept at different dwelling-houses, in different parts of the town; the north school at the house of Benjamin Brooks, the school at the middle of the town at Joseph Baldwin's and the south school at Daniel Taylor's. One man, without doubt, taught the school at these three places. There is no record to show the name of the first teacher in Townsend.



From 1745 to 1750, the town raised twenty pounds, old tenor, for the support of schools, which were kept at several different places. In 1746, the town "Voted to build a school-house on the highway between John Wallis' and Samuel Manning's." It was to be twenty-three feet long and eighteen feet wide. This house was never built, or rather, there is no further mention of any school-house or school in that locality. In 1749, the town "Voted to raise £10 lawful money to support a school," and designated three places at which it should be kept, one of which was "at the new school-house in the middle of the town." The foundation of this first school-house in Townsend may still be seen, on the easterly side of the highway, nearly opposite to the spot where the first meeting-house stood. There is no record of the time when this house was erected, but probably it was done during 1747.

From 1754 to 1766, the town, each year, appropriated £8 lawful money for the support of a school, and decided where it should be kept.

In 1753, the records show that there was a "school-house on the south side of the river," but the time when it was built, or its size, is not known, neither can the precise spot where it stood be pointed out. At that time, by far the largest part of the inhabitants of Townsend lived in the east part of the town, within three miles of the east line thereof, so that a school on Nissequassick hill, one at the middle of the town, and one just south of the Harbor, would accommodate the people in the best possible manner.

In 1770, "Voted to allow the north end of the town £12 old tenor of their school rate to be spent with a school mistress with that squadron." There is nothing on record.



or in tradition, whereby the name of this teacher can be ascertained, but the record, as far as it goes, is interesting, inasmuch as it shows a due appreciation of the worth and ability of women, as educators, more than one hundred years ago. Considering the small amount of money appropriated at that time, it may be inferred that females did a large share of the work of teaching.

From the settlement of the town, to the time at which we have arrived, in its educational history every opportunity was improved by the people to advance the cause of learning and piety.

It is evident, from the manner in which the town records were made during the first half century of our municipal existence, that the town clerks were men of considerable culture. Their chirography will not suffer when compared with their successors, or even with the efforts of the present generation. It is true, that in some instances, they showed bad spelling, but, considering their advantages, the wonder is that they filled this office with so much credit to themselves and to the town.

In 1783, beginning to realize that they had thrown off the British yoke, and feeling the spirit of independence stirring within them, the people at a town meeting in May, chose a committee of nine "to divide the town into squadrons for convenience for schooling." The word "squadron"—meaning districts—is to be found in most of the New England town records of the period now under consideration. It is difficult to understand why this word is used in this sense, unless it was brought over by the puritans, who used it in their native country to express portions of a city, or a county, laid out in a quadrangular manner. The lines of our school districts were very irregular, which makes the term still less appropriate.



The committee divided the town into seven parts, for school purposes, and designated the location of the several school-houses. The names given to these squadrons were, the North, East, South, Bayberry Hill, West, Northwest, and Centre schools.

The North school-house, made at that time, stood at the north end of the six rod road over Wallace hill, a short distance west of the present school-house in that part of the town. About 1807, when the present house was built, that house was found to be too small, and it was abandoned as a school building, and finally sold. It now stands on the said six rod road, about one hundred rods nearly south of where it was built, and is used by our worthy adopted citizen, Mr. Beckernort, for a cooper shop.

The East school-house was situated on the same road over the hill, about a mile and a half south of the north school-house. This was the most populous part of the town one hundred years ago. There are quite a number of old cellars and foundations for dwellings in that vicinity, where once stood the loved homes of "kindred, parents and children," now forgotten and unfrequented, except to gather the luscious berries that cluster around the stone walls near these ruins.

The South school-house stood about a mile southerly of the first bridge west of the Harbor pond.

The Bayberry Hill school-house was situated only a short distance from the school-house now standing in that part of the town.

The West school-house was built nearly opposite the spot where the owners of Ash Swamp pass through a gate, leading off from the Ashby road, to approach their lands.





The Northwest school-house was situated on the side of the road leading from the cemetery, in West Townsend, to the old turnpike. On the south end of this house was a nice sundial, made and presented to this school by Hezekiah Richardson.

The Centre school-house probably stood on the same foundation, occupied by the first school-house in that district, which, in 1783, had been built thirty-four or thirty-five years, and it undoubtedly was too small for the accommodation of this central location.

Most of these houses were built in 1784. In October of that year the town appropriated "£40 to build seven school houses." The size and style of these buildings may be learned from the one still standing, which is twenty feet long and fourteen feet wide. These structures were in use for the purposes for which they were intended, till the first years of the present century, when they were superseded by a more commodious and better class of buildings.

The Northwest "squadron" did not build its house for ten or eleven years after all the others were finished. The inhabitants of that part of the town, then as well as now, were scattered over a large territory, and they probably preferred being without a school, than raise the twenty pounds required to build their house.

On all three roads, leading from different parts of Townsend to Mason, were families which lived within a short distance of the state line, and they were obliged to travel more than two miles to reach their school-house. There was considerable feeling throughout the town when these districts were made. It always has been, and probably always will be, very difficult to satisfy this section of the town in its school accommodations.



In October, 1784, "Voted to raise £24 for the support of a school, in addition to the £6 interest due the town for that purpose." The six pounds was the interest which accrued on one hundred pounds, left the town by a legacy from Lieut. Amos Whitney, which has been mentioned in another part of this work. From this time, till 1800, the amount appropriated by the town for schools, varied from thirty to eighty pounds.

Nothing of importance is on record in regard to educational affairs, from the time these squadrons were made till the population of the town had increased so that larger houses were required.

In 1796, "Voted to choose a man in each school squadron for a school committee. Chose Samuel Stone, Jonathan Wallace, Life Baldwin, Jacob Blodgett, Ephraim Lampson, John Sherwin, and Daniel Adams, Esq., for said committee."

This first school committee chosen in Townsend, was made up of men of prominence in the districts to which they belonged. What they lacked in the higher branches of mathematics, as taught at the present time in our grammar schools, and on which much time is lost by pupils who never expect to fill any learned profession, they made up in square common sense, general intelligence, and integrity of character. A committee of this kind was not chosen every year, till the state made a law obliging every town to elect a superintending school committee.

In 1797, the town appropriated \$300 for the schools, and this was the sum raised till 1802, when \$350 was the sum. In 1803, \$400 was appropriated, and this amount was annually repeated till 1807, when \$500 was raised, which sum was found to be sufficient, for the satisfaction of the town for school purposes, for about twenty years.



The school-houses which took the places of the original seven (of 1784), were made by the several districts, between 1802 and 1810. The town voted to number the districts eighteen years after the first committee was chosen. In 1814, "chose Rev. David Palmer, in No. 1, Samuel Stone, Jr., in No. 2, Peter Manning, in No. 3, Abraham Seaver, in No. 4, Josiah Richardson, Jr., in No. 5, Aaron Warren, in No. 6, John Scales, in No. 7, Walter Hastings, in No. 8, Samuel Walker, in No. 9, Nathaniel Cummings, in No. 10, a committee of inspecting, to inspect the several schools in this town, and each district to choose a clerk, and the clerks to notify their own district meetings, and set up their own schools, provided they do it according to law."

That the town elected their best men on this committee may be inferred from the fact, that it contained the town's minister, one lawyer, and three justices of the peace. And the town from that time to the present has placed men on this committee, who have given their best efforts to the cause of the common schools.

Soon after the baptist meeting-house, at West Townsend, was erected, the subject of establishing a young ladies' seminary at that village began to be discussed. The idea was suggested by Mr. Levi Warren, who was at that time the most influential man in that section of Townsend. In 1835, between thirty and forty gentlemen, a part of whom did not belong to Townsend, contributed towards purchasing the land and erecting the building known as "the Seminary." No sum was subscribed less than twenty-five dollars, which was called a share. Most of these subscribers took one share, while others gave according to their interest in education and the prosperity of the village. The largest contributor was Mr. Levi



Warren, who subscribed for nineteen shares, Charles Warren, fourteen shares, and Isaac Davis, Jacob Sanders, and Ralph Warren, six shares each. The building was finished in April, 1836, and the institution was inaugurated under highly favorable circumstances, which more than met the expectations of its patrons and founders. On petition, the General Court granted the following charter:—

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine.

An act to incorporate the Proprietors of the TOWNSEND WEST VILLAGE FEMALE SEMINARY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled and by the authority of the same as follows :

SECTION 1. Levi Warren, Jonathan Richardson, Jacob Sanders, and their associates and successors, are hereby made a corporation, by the name of the Proprietors of the Townsend West Village Female Seminary, in Townsend, in the County of Middlesex, with all the Powers and Privileges, and subject to all the duties, restrictions and liabilities set forth in the forty-fourth Chapter of the Revised Statutes.

SECTION 2. The said corporation may hold real and personal estate to the amount of twenty thousand Dollars, to be devoted exclusively to purposes of Education.

House of Representatives, March 12, 1839.

Passed to be enacted.

ROBERT C. WINTHROP, Speaker.

In the Senate, March 13, 1839.

Passed to be enacted.

MYRON LAWRENCE, President.

March 13th, 1839, approved, EDWARD EVERETT.





The lady who was principal when the seminary commenced its existence, remained in office only about a year, when she married and left town. Another principal succeeded her till the fall term of 1839, when the trustees engaged the services of Miss Ruth S. Robinson, a person of excellent judgment and ample scholastic attainments.

Associated with this principal were six teachers of experience in the natural sciences, mathematics, the French, German and Latin languages, intellectual and moral philosophy, the ornamental branches and music. This board of instruction was selected with much care by a board of Trustees from different New England states. The Seminary was under the auspices of the baptist denomination, but it enjoyed the confidence and patronage of all sects and creeds. The baptists of the eastern states and some from New York sent their daughters to West Townsend for an education at this seminary, which for more than twenty years was very popular. In almost every state in the Union may be found one or more teachers, principals of high schools and seminaries, besides wives of educated professional men, who remember the pleasant days of their youth, passed at this, their *Alma Mater*.

In 1844, a more lucrative and responsible position was offered to Miss Robinson, when she resigned her office. Two other ladies had charge of the seminary, each in turn, till 1846, when Miss Hannah P. Dodge was selected as principal. Miss Dodge is a native of Littleton, and was graduated at this seminary in 1843. This lady remained at the head of this institution till November, 1853, when, at her solicitation on account of ill-health, she was dismissed. During a larger part of the time since



her connection with the seminary was dissolved; she has been a practical educator.

The building was commodious and well arranged, its rooms richly furnished, and carpeted in a tasteful manner.

The Lesbian Society, for literary exercises and improvement among the young ladies of the seminary, was a perfect success.

Belonging to the institution was a very judiciously selected library, a large part of which was presented by Messrs. Levi and Charles Warren, and their baptist friends in Boston.

In every particular, it had no peer in America, except, perhaps, Miss Willard's Female Seminary, at Troy, New York. But after a successful existence of about twenty-five years,—after it had shone brightly among the constellations of the literary galaxy of its time,—in an evil hour, it finally sunk, never to rise again from beneath the horizon of financial mismanagement, which enshrouded its exit. Thus this civilizing influence, which to a great extent built up the west village, which gave a fresh impetus to our public schools, and made Townsend an objective point as a seat of learning and refinement, was irretrievably lost.

Among the names of the Trustees, at different times, are Hon. Isaac Davis, Worcester, Massachusetts. William H. Shaler, D. D., Portland, Maine, Dea. George Cummings, Lancaster, Massachusetts, Dea. Simon G. Shipley, Boston, Massachusetts, Henry Marchant, Esq., Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and S. T. Cutting, Esq., New York City.

The seminary building passed into the hands of the party which held the security on the property, and from



1863 to 1870, it was used as a dwelling-house. In consequence of the act of the legislature abolishing the district system in 1869, the town in 1870 altered the number and location of the school-houses and bought the seminary building and renovated it for graded schools.

After the seminary had been in successful operation for four or five years, the congregationalists and others at the centre of the town, observing the good influences emanating from that institution, and that the baptist church was much better filled than at previous times, took the idea of an academy at Townsend Centre into serious consideration. First and foremost in this enterprise, was the Rev. Mr. Stowell, the orthodox minister. Accordingly at a proper time, a meeting of the people of the town, and of the members of the congregational church and society in particular, a sufficient sum of money in addition to the quantity of lumber and materials given by others interested, was subscribed to erect a suitable building. Capt. Elnathan Davis gave the timber for the frame, delivered on the ground where it was erected. The traders at the centre gave the nails, lime and hardware, so that the academy was built by a mutual effort by which no one felt the least impoverished. It was finished in the summer of 1841, and opened the following September with a respectable number of students. It stood on the north side of Main Street, nearly opposite the bank, on a part of what is now the stable yard of Walter Fessenden, Esq. It was not so expensive a structure as the seminary, but was a substantial, well-arranged, two-story building, with a tower and bell surmounting it. For five or six consecutive years this academy received a good share of patronage, and during the autumn months a large number of scholars gathered within its walls.



Mr. Noadiah Dickinson was the first preceptor of this academy. He graduated at Amherst college, was a good scholar, with easy, gentlemanly manners, calculated to keep all his friends and gain as many more as he desired. While Mr. Stowell remained in town he took much interest in this school, and he assisted Mr. Dickinson, when the services of an additional teacher were required, in a manner very acceptable to the students.

Jonathan C. Shattuck, of Dartmouth College, 1842, had charge of this academy, for some time.

The difficulty of supporting two institutions of similar character, like the seminary and the academy, in so small a town as Townsend soon became apparent. After Mr. Stowell and Mr. Dickinson left town, the interest in the academy began to flag, until finally, in 1851, the old district school-house, situated at the northeast corner of the common, where the blacksmith shop now stands, was much too small for the accommodation of the scholars, and District No. 1 bought this academy building, and moved it to a spot on the north side of the road, almost due north of, and opposite to, the methodist chapel. It was used for a public school-house till January 5, 1870, when it was burned, as is supposed, by an incendiary. There have been four other school-houses burned in this town, two in what was called the Potunck District (No. 8), and two in the Harbor District. About 1830, a school-house was burned, which stood about one-fourth of a mile southerly from the bridge over the river at the Harbor, in the angle of land made by the divergence of the Shirley and "South Row" roads; and in 1871 another school-house situated on the west side of the Shirley road, nearer the Harbor, was destroyed by fire by the careless deposit of ashes.





Since the State Board of Education was established, the town has kept pace with the general progress of education throughout the Commonwealth. The reports of the several school committees, on file with the town records, particularly since the existence of the law requiring that they should be printed, are drawn with great care, and contain many valuable suggestions.

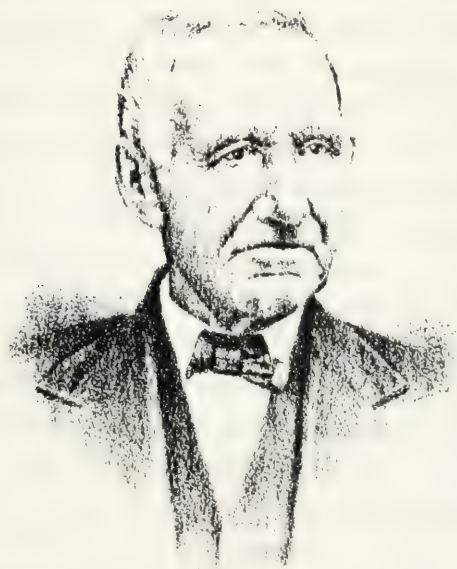
It might afford pleasure to some readers to see the names of the persons, who, since the days of Horace Mann, the efficient secretary of the Board of Education, have served on the school committee in Townsend, but the simple statement of the fact, that, since that time the voters of this town have selected their best men on this committee, will be considered sufficient.\* Within the last decade the public schools have been very prosperous.

Thaddeus Spaulding, was the first public school teacher in this town, known to the writer. He taught the North school many terms, commencing 1785, in the school-house described in this chapter, at present a cooper shop. Miss Rebecca Warren taught in the south part of the town previous to 1800. She taught a long time and died at an advanced age, unmarried. Joel Adams was a teacher here more than seventy-five years ago.

In 1808, Seth Davis, Esq., a native of Townsend, at present an active old gentleman, resident of West Newton, taught school here. A few years later Miss Mary Palmer, Miss Betsey Pratt, Miss Polly Giles, and Miss Mary Adams (now Mrs. Bertram), were some of the Townsend school teachers. Contemporaneous with the last named individuals, the male teachers were Daniel Conant, Joel

\* In 1836, the committee consisted of Rev. David Palmer, Rev. Columbus Shumway, Rev. James Barnaby, Dr. John Bertram, and Samuel Adams.





*Seth Davis*



Giles, John K. Palmer, and Samuel Adams, all Townsend boys once, and successful instructors.

Hon. Seth Davis (whose autograph and likeness, in this book, were made after he was ninety years of age), was the son of Timothy Davis, who was the son of Timothy Davis, who was a blacksmith, a wrought nail maker in particular, and one of the early settlers of this town. He sold "two house lots numbering twenty-five and twenty-six," for £650, to Daniel Adams, Jr., of Concord, (now Lincoln). These lots included all the land on the west side of the road, leading from the present dwelling-house of Elisha D. Barber, to Brookline, commencing at Darius O. Evans' northeast corner; thence westerly by his north line as far as a point in line of the east line of "the six rod way;" thence southerly by that line to the end of "the six rod way;" thence easterly on the road by the school-house, and northerly by the road to the place of beginning, including both the farms of Mr. Barber and Mr. Evans, and all the land between the west end of Mr. Barber's farm and the six rod way. The deed "Timothy Davis to Daniel Adams, Jr.," dated November 3, 1742, "in the sixteenth year of His Majesty's reign George the Second," is still in existence, the signatures to which are well executed, except that of Hannah Davis, the wife of Timothy, who commenced her name with a small *h*, having however the example of the justice of the peace, who made the draft of the deed, who fell into the same error.

Timothy, the grandfather of Seth Davis, died in this town, in 1800, aged about ninety years. Timothy Davis, father of Seth Davis and son of the nail maker, resided part of the time in Ashby, and part of the time in Townsend.



He was a revolutionary soldier, and a poor man. Seth Davis was born in Ashby, in 1787, and his busy life of more than ninety years, presents one of the best examples of a strictly self-made man. It had never entered his mind that words represented thoughts until he was nearly nine years of age, when he was presented with a copy of Robinson Crusoe, which, by dint of perseverance, he read and understood, giving him a keen relish for reading, and a thirst for knowledge. He passed less than two years of his life in the school-room, as a scholar. He acquired his education while he was teaching school, and during the many leisure hours, while others of his youthful acquaintances were after pleasure, in the sports and gayeties attractive to that period of life. His first school was at Mason, New Hampshire. In 1808, he taught the winter school in Townsend, in the school-house which stood in the corner of the Battery road, opposite the gate entrance to Ash Swamp. Mr. Benjamin Barrett, now eighty-five years old, attended the school taught by Mr. Davis at that time. In 1809, he taught the winter school in the Battery school-house (now a dwelling), made of brick, on the opposite side of the road and some further east than the old house. During the three succeeding winters he taught at Newton, in this state, where he had formed an acquaintance, and where he finally settled and made himself a home and "troops of friends." For many years he was principal of an academy at that place. He prepared a primary arithmetic, two or three thousand copies being printed and used in that vicinity. He made an orrery to explain the motions of the heavenly bodies, probably the first one used in this Commonwealth, and introduced some valuable improvements in the methods of





instruction. His whole teaching was attended with much common sense and wisdom, all his record and examples being worthy of the highest commendation. About 1840, having acquired considerable real estate in the flourishing town of his adoption, he gave up teaching and attended to his property, to business, and rural affairs.

From 1840 to 1844, he was one of the county commissioners, and during these three years he made all the surveys which the duties of the board required. He is fond of flowers, gardens, lawns, and all that is beautiful in nature. More than three-fourths of all the trees now growing in West Newton, including the stately elms and clean sugar-maples, which make its streets delightful, as well as the fruit trees, were set out by his hands, during every year of his life from 1811 to the present time. His untiring labors, with his head and his hands, through a long life, have been crowned with a success to a degree that must be exceedingly gratifying to a man of his generous and honorable purposes.

He was married October 27, 1810, to Mary Durell. She died June 16, 1867. On the first of July, 1868, he married Mary J. Glidden, his present wife. His children were, Mary W., born November 27, 1813, died November 12, 1842, and Harris L., born February 24, 1829, died March 12, 1853.

His ninetieth birthday, the third day of September 1877, was observed in a special manner, at his house in West Newton. His former pupils, together with his numerous friends, responded enthusiastically to the call, that suitable honors should be shown to their old master and fellow-citizen. On that occasion were speeches,



music and poems, all of an enjoyable, cheering and elevating character.

“The friends who knew him in his youth,  
The tried, the true, the brave,  
Have passed from earth, like viewless winds,  
Where rustling harvests wave;  
The aims his young ambition craved  
His riper age has won;  
The dews of morn. in crimson glow  
Pillow his setting sun.

“The boys he taught in other days  
Are boys no longer now,  
Time lovingly has begged their locks,  
And silver streaks their brow;  
Still, as ‘mid ruined arch and fane  
In old, historic lands,  
Some shaft, intact, its head uprears,—  
This grand old pillar stands.”



## CHAPTER X.

### *MILLS AND MANUFACTURES.*

First Mill in Town at the Harbor, 1733—"Hubbard's Mill" at West Townsend—Hezekiah Richardson's Mill and the Variety of Business at that Place—James Giles' Mill—Eben Butler's Mill—Daniel Giles' Mill, afterwards Owned by Adams & Powers—Steam Mill of Giles & Larkin—Steam Mill of Walter Fessenden & Son—Sketch of Walter Fessenden—The Work done by these Mills—Morocco Factory of Abram S. French—Sketch of Abram S. French—Clothiers and Wool Carders—Hezekiah Richardson and his Sons—Samuel Whitney, the Inventor of the Planer—Peter Manning, the Saddler—Townsend Harbor in 1790—The Tanning Business Carried on by Several Parties—Hats Made of Fur, and Palm Leaf Hats—Foundry at the Harbor—Statistics of the Manufactures of Townsend, for 1875, taken from the Decennial Census.

The first mill in Townsend, was built at the Harbor, by John Stevens and John Patt, by mutual agreement in writing, each binding himself, his heirs and executors, to the other, his heirs and executors, "to furnish one-half of the labor, timber, stone and iron, necessary for the erection of said mill for sawing boards;" and "to keep the same in repair for twenty years." This written agreement, drawn in a neat, bold hand, worded in a scholarly manner, and legally binding on both parties, is now in the possession of the Ball family, which was connected by marriage with the Stevens family. The signatures of these men, and of two witnesses to the instrument,



would be particularly noticeable in a collection of autographs. John Patt owned the land on the north side of the river, and John Stevens on the south side where the mill was built. This agreement was executed in January, 1733, and the mill was built and completed before the thirtieth of November following. A dam, suitable in height, was thrown across the river at or near where the stone dam now stands, which stopped the water much further up the river than was agreeable to the engineering of these two men. A meeting of the proprietors was called in August of that year, when it was voted to allow Ephraim Sawtell an "equivalent for such land as may be flowed by the raising of the dam."

The mill was located a few rods westerly of the place where the leather-board factory now stands. A grist-mill was soon after put in this building. This mill was sold by the builders a few years after its erection, including the privilege and a certain amount of land, to John Conant, who was the owner and occupant for a long time. The large two-story house, now standing near the south end of the dam, was built by this John Conant, away back in the provincial times, when all legal documents specified the year of "His Majesty's Reign." This house was a tavern for many years. Conant's mill had no competitor in Townsend, till about 1768, when a dam was made and a mill erected on the south side of the Squanicook, at West Townsend, near the west side of the stone bridge. The name of the man who built the mill is unknown to the writer, but about 1775, William Hobart was the proprietor. This mill was known in its day as "Hubbard's mill," and it was burned about 1790. The privilege remained unoccupied till 1798, when Hezekiah Richardson bought the





property, and the canal leading easterly from the stone bridge was made, which remains in use to the present day. The labor in excavating this canal was most all done gratuitously, by the farmers and others, in consideration of better saw and grist-mill accommodations. Mr. Richardson made a mill nearly on the same site where a mill now stands. The water at this mill has been utilized for more different kinds of business than at any other place in this town. Here has been a saw and grist-mill, a wool carding mill, a cotton yarn factory, a stocking factory, a machine shop, and a leather-board mill, the last being the present business.

James Giles had a small mill, where the kit mill of A. M. Adams now stands, as early as 1787; and about the same time Major Samuel Stone, of Ashby, built a mill on Willards stream, in the fork of the two roads leading to Ashby. Afterwards this mill was owned by Eben Butler, of whom, in 1819, Benjamin Barrett and son bought this property. They demolished the old mill, made a stone dam, and the second mill at this place. Quite recently a mill, three stories in height, and rather capacious, was built here; and in 1871, another stone dam, further up the stream, was made for reservoir purposes, by which the privilege was much enhanced in value. This mill is now used for the manufacture of coopers' stock, and owned by Lewis Sanders, who built it.

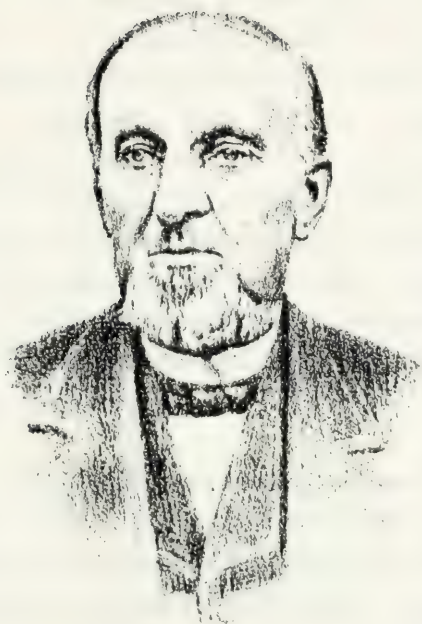
In 1817, Daniel Giles erected a mill on the spot now occupied at the Centre for a grain elevator. This mill has not passed through many hands, although it has been enlarged and greatly improved. Adams & Powers were the next owners, and at present, Alfred M. Adams, a son of the senior partner of the above firm, is the proprietor.



For the last half of a century, this saw and grist-mill, in connection with the coopering business, and on account of its central location in relation to a market for flour and meal, has done the most business of any mill in this town. Soon after Daniel Giles disposed of this mill, he built a steam mill on the west side of the Brookline road, about half a mile northerly of the common, where a new building erected for a mill now stands. This mill was not long in operation before it was burned, and he lost heavily by the fire. The citizens of the town, and his friends, with much sympathy for the loser, contributed liberally to his relief, so that with the money, he purchased a shell of a mill at Sharon, New Hampshire, and removed it on to the same spot where his mill was burned. This building was converted into a steam mill for the purpose of making coopering stock, and was run by the firm of Giles & Larkin, until the death of Mr. Giles, in 1858, when Mr. Edwin A. Larkin bought the property and continued the coopering business. Through the carelessness of an engineer, or the wickedness of one of his enemies who intended to destroy his reputation, or perhaps his life, the boiler burst in this mill, in May, 1862, killing three men, and tearing out one side of the mill, besides doing considerable other damage. This mill was taken down, 1874, and the present structure on its site, put in its place.

In 1867, a large two-story and basement factory for manufacturing coopers' stock of all kinds, operated by steam, was built at the centre of the town by Walter Fessenden & Son. This mill gave employment to about thirty workmen. The building, motive power, machinery, and every facility for the manufacture of this stock, was first class. Except the usual vacation of four or five





Walter Fessenden



weeks, it was kept running during the year. In August, 1874, this mill was burned, the fire being undoubtedly the work of an incendiary. This large structure was, at that time, full of combustible goods, made from pine lumber. There was no wind; the evening was dark during the fire which raged furiously; when the roof fell in, a gleaming and hissing sheet of flame shot upward to the sky, which was visible for a long distance around. Had the fire happened when the wind blew, or any time except when the mill yard and surrounding roofs were wet, the central village would have been reduced to ashes. The factory now standing on the same site, altered slightly in its architectural proportions from the model of the mill that was burned, was finished and commenced running, February 4, 1875.

Hon. Walter Fessenden was born September 20, 1813. He obtained his education at the people's college—the common school—where a great majority of our prominent business men take their “degrees” of good sense and self-reliance. A certain prominent educator was once asked what studies should be taken by boys. Said he, “Teach them that which they will practice when they become men.” Mr. Fessenden received just that kind of an education. He lived more than two miles from the school-house, during his boyhood, while the school terms were much shorter than at present, so that his educational advantages were rather limited. During his minority he learned the coopers’ trade, a vocation which he plied with success, having large vitality and muscular strength. Up to 1845, he just made the two pages of the ledger balance, though occasionally it was up grade with him. The





impetus given to business by the California excitement in 1849, and other causes operating in his favor, established him in the coopering business so that he began to employ quite a number of men in that branch of industry.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men, which,  
Taken at the flood leads on to fortune."

The number of his operatives, and the amount of his trade, began to increase, so that he soon did a heavy business, shipping his goods to California, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and even to the Sandwich Islands, besides supplying his share to the usual trade of the cities on the coast. In 1859, the firm of Walter Fessenden & Son was formed, since which time Albert L. Fessenden has been the junior partner. This is the leading manufacturing firm in this town; and up to 1875, from sixty to eighty men have been in its employment as laborers, woodsmen, teamsters, millers, and coopers, who have converted many thousand cords of pine lumber into goods which have found a ready market. Walter Fessenden was one of the most influential men in securing from the Legislature a charter for the Townsend Bank. This institution has been under his charge, as president, for more than twenty years, during which time it has paid good dividends and added a surplus of about forty per cent. to its capital stock. In 1865, it became a National Bank, in conformity to the United States laws. In 1856, he was a member of the National Democratic Convention at Cincinnati, when Mr. Buchanan was nominated; and again, in 1860, he was chosen a delegate to the National Democratic Convention which assembled at Charleston, South



Carolina, where he was an unfaltering Douglas man. In 1861, he was chosen a member of the Massachusetts Senate. He is fond of travel having been two or three times to the Pacific slope, and, during the summer and fall of 1874, he made the tour of Europe, in company with a part of his family. He married Harriet E. Lewis, February 6, 1838.

It appears unnecessary to pursue the description of the Townsend lumber mills any further, although many have had their "exits and entrances" since the town was settled. The coopering business, for the last fifty years, has kept these establishments hard at work during a large part of the year. The timber is converted into barrels, shooks, kegs, kits, tubs, and pails, which, after shipment to the various cities of the United States, are filled with fruit, fish, syrup, spices, edibles of different kinds, chemicals, various manufactures and products, from whence they go on the wings of commerce to every market known to the enterprising American merchant.

In 1833, Abram S. French built a morocco factory, on the brook running northeasterly from Bayberry hill, near its junction with the river, and near where James Giles built his saw-mill, described in this chapter. He erected a dam on this brook, which afforded sufficient water to operate a fulling-mill during the largest part of the year. This establishment was in successful operation till 1853, employing constantly ten or twelve workmen; and from the fact of a continuation of twenty years in the trade, the presumption is that the business was a source of wealth to the proprietor.



Abram S. French was born in Boston, in 1809. His mother was a daughter of Isaac Kidder, of Townsend, where he has resided most of the time during his life. He made one or two voyages to the West Indies, as a cabin boy, but not being captivated with a maritime life, he was sent to New Ipswich, New Hampshire, where he acquired a good academical education. Preferring to enter business rather than pursue a course of study for a profession, and having a taste for rural pursuits, he carried on a farm for a few years. After closing up his morocco dressing business, before mentioned, he stocked a tannery at Lockport, New York, and carried on business successfully at that place with a partner to whom he sold his interest in the trade. He then went to Wellsville, New York, and built a large tannery, and pursued that branch of industry for several years very profitably to himself, leaving it most of the time in charge of a reliable and competent superintendent. Partially losing his health, and seeing a good chance to sell, in 1864, he disposed of this factory and its stock in trade, and retired from business. The prices of everything being inflated by the paper currency caused by the war, leather was worth more than double when he sold compared with its cost when he built the factory. He married Lois P. Richardson, in 1831, and although they have always had an abundance of wealth and friends, they have been severely bereaved by the loss of four of their six children; a son in the rebellion, two daughters, each about twenty years of age, and a daughter in childhood. Mr. French has always been fond of books, which during the days of bad health have been a source of much pleasure to him. He has a retentive memory—is well posted in history, and





*A. S. French*





possesses a large amount of miscellaneous information. During the holidays he may be seen dispensing his gifts among his friends, and particularly to those who are in need of assistance. In 1861 and 1862, he was the representative in the Legislature, for Townsend and Ashby.

Nathan Carlton was a clothier, at the Harbor, as early as 1790, and the mill where he obtained his power stood where Spaulding's planing mill is now situated. He was in business for considerable time and his house stood on or near the spot where Abel Eaton's house was recently burned. Silas Lawrence followed him in the same trade and at the same place. In 1821, Paul Gerrish took possession of the property which he enlarged and improved. He put in a wool carding machine, a spinning jenny, and a loom, or looms, and engaged in the manufacture of woolen goods, with good success. This gentleman was one of the most prominent citizens of the town. He was a justice of the peace, and one of the selectmen quite a number of years. In 1832, he represented Townsend in the Legislature. An accurate town officer and an exemplary man. He continued in this branch of industry more than twenty years.

About 1807, Jonathan Richardson came into the possession and ownership of the saw and grist-mill erected by Hezekiah Richardson & Sons, which stood a few rods easterly of the present leather-board factory. Connected with this building was an ell, or wing, which contained the first wool carding machine ever in operation in this town. Previous to this time, most of the wool produced in town was carded at the mills in Pepperell or Groton; the rolls of wool were then returned to the farmers' wives who spun it with Richardson's "patent head," and wove it into



cloth, which was put into the hands of the clothier for coloring and dressing. Capt. Josiah G. Heald was the owner of this machine. He was a clothier, and he continued in that trade and wool carding more than a quarter of a century. He had the confidence of the people, gave strict attention to his business, and was much respected.

Hezekiah Richardson, (born in Townsend, 1741,) and his sons Zaccheus, Hezekiah, and Levi, were ingenious mechanics. A part of their business was chairmaking, and the manufacture of spinning-wheels, both for wool and flax. The house in which Hezekiah, senior, lived, is now standing about a third of a mile northwest from the "turnpike bridge," on the premises, triangular in shape, surrounded on its three sides by public highways. It was built about 1746, has always been occupied by a family, and remains to this day a comfortable dwelling-house. These three sons were born in this house, between 1770 and 1776.

Levi constructed a wool spinning-wheel with an extra gear, which was patented. It was a favorite with the women, and was known among them as "the patent head." He was also the inventor of a set of sliding blocks, which, after a log was put upon the saw carriage and the saw put in motion, would set for each board till the whole log was sawed. Through the influence of General Varnum, of Dracut, a member of Congress from this district at that time, he obtained a patent on this invention.

Soon after the close of the revolution, the Warrens, and others, were engaged in the manufacture of potash, and this business was followed in a profitable manner till about 1820, when wood became more valuable.



Previous to the commencement of the present century, the principal branch of industry of the town, from which was derived the greatest amount of money, was the manufacture of beef, pork, and rum barrels. These casks were drawn to market, at Boston, by ox teams, usually about four days being spent in making the journey.

Within the last fifty years most of the families in this town manufactured woolen goods for their own clothing. A tailoress would be in attendance with these families, once a year, and make these woolens into clothing for its members. So with regard to boots and shoes. The farmers sent their hides, marked so as to be recognized, to the tanners, where they were made into leather. A boot and shoemaker would go around to each house and make those goods, sufficient for a years stock, for the family.

Samuel Whitney, of this town, was the inventor of what is known as the Woodworth planer. He spent considerable time and money on this machine. He had a model made by a competent machinist, which did the work admirably, and he intended to secure a patent on the same, but while he delayed in attending to that business, and dreaming about the fortune he hoped to make by it, a dishonest man stealthily invaded the premises in which the model was stored, took drawings and admeasurements of it, from which another model was made and sent to Washington, and a patent was taken out in another man's name. By this bold and villainous theft, Mr. Whitney was defrauded out of the benefit of his ingenious and useful invention.

In the days of equestrianism, practiced by both sexes, when pleasure wagons were unknown, a saddler was almost as indispensable in every town as a minister.



In 1787, Peter Manning was engaged in this trade at the Harbor. His house and shop, all in one building, stood where Charles Emery now resides. He is represented as a very polite gentleman, a skilful mechanic, and a good singer; but he rebelled against the practice of alternate reading and singing the lines of the hymn, which was the custom in public service on the sabbath. Through his influence, that fashion was laid aside.

At that time, Townsend Harbor was the only collection of houses in town which could be called a village. It contained a tavern, the large, old house (now standing), at or near the south end of the dam at the river, kept by John Conant, a very popular landlord; a saw and grist-mill, a blacksmith shop, a clothier (1790), a tanner; a trader, (Life Baldwin, in 1788,) who occupied the building for a store, which is painted red and stands on the north side of the road, nearly opposite to Jonas Spaulding's counting-room. This was the first store in Townsend, and its proprietor at that time, Mr. Baldwin, was a man of good influence. He was town clerk and one of the selectmen of this town for several years.

About the commencement of the present century, there was quite a heavy growth of pitch-pine where the central village now stands, the nearest houses to which were the red house, now standing on the north side of the road, just south of the Walker pond, so called, and two or three small dwellings situated at the westward of the old burying ground, or in that vicinity.

At the west village, that now is, the hotel now standing and two or three houses, constituted all the buildings of that locality. The borders of the town, at that time, probably contained as many inhabitants as at the present time.





In 1789, Capt. Timothy Fessenden was engaged in the tanning business on land now owned by Harriet Read, near the north end of the dam over the Squamicook, at the Harbor. John and Samuel Billings, of Lunenburg, were interested in this property, but whether as part owners, mortgagees, or otherwise, is unknown. John Jewett followed Fessenden in this business, till about 1808, when Oliver Read bought the place and worked at the same trade till about 1827.

Soon after 1800, Benjamin Pierce started a tannery near the first little brook crossing the road leading from the depot, at West Townsend, to the post office in that village. It stood on the north side of the road. Several proprietors followed him in the business, among whom were George Hartwell, Levi Stearns (about 1825), and Alexander Lewis (about 1828).

The amount of business done in these establishments varied from one to two thousand dollars per annum. In 1827, Curtis Stevens bought the mill, supplied by water from "Willards stream," in the fork of the Ashby roads (where Lewis Sanders' mill now stands),—built tan vats on the north side of the mill and utilized the water power to grind bark and for other purposes in the tanning business, which he pursued till about 1835.

John Orr, in 1854, erected quite a large two-story and attic building near the railroad track at West Townsend Depot for a tannery, which was operated by steam power. He employed five or six workmen in the business till 1858, when the property went into the hands of a firm under the name of Freeman & Avery. These men increased the business, constantly employing fifteen or twenty operatives. They shipped a large amount of their goods into the



market, but they were not first-class financiers, and did not meet with the success which they anticipated.

In 1864, this establishment was bought by George Taft, who retained the foreman, and some of the workmen under the firm which preceded him, and he went on with the business. The building and finished stock contained in it were burned in 1868, but in due time Mr. Taft built another structure, of about the same dimensions and on the same site, which remained about three years, when that also was burned. Since that time the ruins of this factory have remained undisturbed. Within the last quarter of a century this branch of industry in Massachusetts has been concentrated into a few places, like Woburn, and other populous towns, containing heavy capitalists, with whom competition is next to impossible.

Soon after the old meeting-house was moved on to the common (1804), a blacksmith, a tinsmith, and a hatter, set up their several trades, near each other, just west of the Goss bridge, at the centre of the town.

Eben Wilder, the hatter, lived on the spot now owned and occupied by Americus Lawrence. His hats were "felt" throughout the town, and none of them, while in his possession ever contained a "brick" inside, for he was "brim" full of temperance and moderation. Had he lived till 1832, he might have seen the dexterity with which the farmers' wives and daughters turned out the palm-leaf hats with their nimble fingers. At that time more than three-fourths of the families in this town contained one or more persons, sometimes three or four, who braided palm-leaf hats nearly all the time.

David P. Livermore, a trader at the Harbor, introduced this branch of industry into this town. The women



and children braided these hats, and took their wages in goods from his store.

Mr. John Snow was the first trader at the centre of the town, who furnished leaf to be manufactured into hats. The other storekeepers soon followed, and this enterprise furnished employment for many people in Townsend, and the two northern towns in New Hampshire which join it, who had scarcely any other method of earning any money. From 1855 to 1860, while Mr. Daniel Adams was in trade at the centre of the town, the entire business in this line passed through his hands. He sold yearly, from twelve to fifteen thousand dozen of palm-leaf hats, a large portion of which went to the southern states, and were worn by those people who at one time in our national history were known as "intelligent contrabands," but more recently have been the principal stock in trade of a victorious and enthusiastic political party.

About 1830, Beriah Blood and Reuben Farrar came from Concord to the Harbor, and bought the Conant mill. Soon after, they moved a large barn, standing near by on the south side of the river, and set it up in their mill yard, near the side of the road, and converted it into a foundry. Quite a sum of money was invested in the building and stock. Albert S. Page commenced the business, which afterwards was in the possession of several different men and different firms. At one time, the establishment turned out a large quantity of goods. The Wards, two brothers, there for a while, were experienced workmen, and gave character to their goods in that branch of industry. There always appeared to be a lack of capital in the hands of the owners of this foundry, to prosecute the business in a successful manner. About 1852, it was burned while the



Woods brothers, (the railroad contractors,) were the owners.

The foregoing synopsis of the different businesses and enterprises, which have engaged the attention of the Townsend people, has been prepared with all the care and attention that could be given to the subject. A large part of the manufactures and trades, described here partially, were begun and ended before any considerable portion of the present inhabitants were born. Only a few venerable forms, which bear "the human face divine," have come down to us through the generations, which were the least cognizant to the various interests, which, in the days of yore, were so important. "Heaven has so bountiously lengthened out the days" of Miss Mary Palmer, Miss Hannah Seaver, Mr. Samuel Searl, Mr. Benjamin Barrett, Mr. Seth Davis, and a few others, that certain interesting facts have been drawn from the repositories in their remembrance, which have been of great assistance to the writer.

It is remarkable how soon a few years will sweep into oblivion the dates of events which once were of thrilling interest to the whole community. A friend when laid in the ground has the time of his departure indented on the faithful marble that perpetuates his memory, but no monument is ever erected on the spot, once cheered by the hum of happy industry, where a mill has rotted down, or been swept away by fire or flood; neither is there any record of the event, and, generally, unless the searcher after the date can obtain an interview with some intelligent mother who recollects that "it was the same year that my Mary was born," he can scarcely ever with certainty fix the date. It has been considered in good taste, inasmuch as this is the centenary of our nationality, to insert here, the





statistics of the manufactures and occupations of the town, as brought out by the Massachusetts decennial census of 1875. This statistical table will supersede the necessity of a single word further on the manufacturing interests of the town:—

## STATISTICS OF MANUFACTURES.

Massachusetts Census of 1875.

TOWN OF TOWNSEND—COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX.

	Estab- lish- ment.	Capital Invested.	Value of Goods made.
<b>MANUFACTURES.</b>			
BARRELS, HALF BARRELS AND KEGS,	11	\$202,700	\$344,254
BREAD BONES,	1	1,200	1,096
CLOTHING, Men's Custom-made,	1	3,000	6,000
HATS, Palm-leaf,	1		1,590
LEATHER-BOARD,	1	20,000	15,000
LUMBER, SHINGLES, LATHS, ETC.,	5	20,800	25,348
MEAL, CORN, RYE AND WHEAT,	2	12,000	20,000
TINWARE,	1	380	800
TUBS AND PAILS,	1	10,000	23,300
<b>OCCUPATIONS.</b>			
BLACKSMITHING,	4	4,800	8,870
BUTCHERING,	2	3,500	14,875
HARNESS AND SADDLE REPAIRING,	1	432	2,800
PAINTING,	1	1,000	3,250
STONE CUTTING,	2	1,900	4,000
TINSMITHING,	1	2,000	2,500
WHEELWRIGHTING,	1	3,000	6,200
<b>AGGREGATE.</b>			
MANUFACTURES, (goods made,) . . . . .	24	\$270,080	\$437,944
OCCUPATIONS, (work done,) . . . . .	12	16,632	42,585
	36	\$286,712	\$480,529

DESCRIPTION AND QUANTITY OF GOODS MADE—IN PART.

Half fish barrels,	68,077	Dry half and flour	
Fish kegs,	105,974	barrels,	3,250
Dry half barrels,	9,550	Nail and mustard	
Nail kegs,	4,786	kegs,	1,113



Fish kits,	306,000	Emery kegs and	
Kegs,	191,000	barrels,	400
Half flour barrels,	1,390	Quarter fish drums,	2,500
Barrels,	10,272	Bread boxes,	2,500
Molasses kegs,	71,028	Tubs,	30,000
Half barrels,	193,963	Pails,	28,000
Salt barrels,	200	Butter tubs,	45,000
Paint kegs,	1,150		

Value of stock used (in the town), \$249,849

DESCRIPTION AND VALUE OF STOCK USED—IN PART.

Lumber,	\$75,040	Staves,	\$60,897
Hoops,	40,659	Heads,	28,723
Total,			\$205,319

Value of buildings used for manufacturing purposes, \$89,000

Value of average stock on hand in manufacturing establishments, \$87,630

Value of machinery in use, \$51,725

MOTIVE POWER.

Steam engines, 3 ; nominal horse power, 172 ; actual 292.

Water wheels, 19 ; nominal horse power, 447.

PERSONS EMPLOYED.

In manufactures, males 283 ; females 8.

In occupations, males 21 ; females 0.

Totals, 304. 8.



## CHAPTER XI.

### *WAR OF THE REBELLION.*

Rabidness of the Politicians Previous to the Rebellion—Stupendous Effort of Massachusetts in Suppressing It—War a Terrible Agent in Civilization—Call for a Town Meeting, April 20th, 1861—Patriotic Resolves of the Town—Names of the Men who Enlisted in June, 1861, and were Mustered into the Sixth Massachusetts Volunteers—Men of the Twenty-Sixth Massachusetts Regiment—Account of the Thirty-Third Regiment, and the Townsend men in the same—Re-enlistment of the Nine Months Men in the Old Sixth Regiment, in August, 1862—The Fifty-Third Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers for Nine Months—Sketch of Capt. Anson D. Fessenden—Names and Terms of Service of Townsend Men in Various Regiments—Roll of Townsend Men Belonging to the Twenty-Fourth Massachusetts Heavy Artillery—Roll of the One Hundred Days Men who Enlisted July 7, 1861—Patriotism of our Young Men, and the Number of them Killed and who Lost their Lives—Aid Afforded by the Ladies of Townsend to the Sanitary Commission.

It is hardly necessary for a town historian to enumerate and discuss the causes which led to the rebellion of 1861, which has engaged the attention of so many different writers. An exact and impartial account of that gigantic struggle, embracing the incipient causes thereof, is not to be found in English literature.

*"Quos Deus vult perdere, prius dementat."*

Those whom God would destroy, he first makes mad.

That madness ruled the politicians, who assembled at our national capital from all parts of the country for



years, previous to the bombardment of Sumpter, is beyond dispute. The words and acts in the halls of Congress, by persons calling themselves gentlemen, were akin to barbarism. What man would assault a defenceless gentleman, with a bludgeon, for words used in debate, as Brooks did his intended victim, unless he was the very personification of drivelling insanity!

When the news of the election of Abraham Lincoln (who did not receive an electoral vote from any of the southern states,) reached Boston, Faneuil Hall swarmed with exultant men. Among the ill-timed remarks of the orators, on that memorable occasion, was that of Henry Wilson, who, in speaking of the southern people, used these words: "We now have our feet on their necks." Certainly these words were not called for, and no sane man at that time would have used them, for they were calculated to arouse the combativeness, and meet with a martial response, when received by the southern people over the telegraphic wires.

The great wrong of firing upon the national flag, and plotting treason against the government, must be held in everlasting remembrance, to the disgrace of the southern leaders in the rebellion; but let no reader suppose that the South *alone* was responsible for this civil feud which sundered the ties of consanguinity and drenched the land with fraternal blood; which entailed a monstrous debt on the nation, and swept away from their homes and into the grave nearly half a million of men, on both sides, who have fought their last battle.

"Beware  
Of entrance to a quarrel; but, being in,  
Bear it that the opposer may beware of thee."





It cannot be said that special attention was paid by any state or statesman to the precautionary words here quoted, but Massachusetts gave good heed to the last part of this compound declarative sentence, by a vigorous and unqualified support of the government in its effort to preserve the Union by military force.

According to William Schouler, adjutant-general of Massachusetts during the rebellion, in his report to the General Court, January 1, 1866, this Commonwealth was represented in the army and navy, in the different terms of service during the war, by one hundred and fifty-nine thousand one hundred and fifteen (159,115) men.\*

Massachusetts stood at the end of the war, showing that with the exception of twelve small towns, every town and city in the state had furnished a surplus over all the demands from the war department, which amounted in the aggregate to fifteen thousand one hundred and seventy-eight (15,178) men, of which the town of Townsend furnished thirty-three (33) men.

As on the 19th of April, 1775, the Middlesex county men were the first to yield their lives in the revolution, so on the 19th of April, 1861, just eighty-six years afterward, men from the same towns, belonging to the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment, were the first who gave up their lives for their country, in the mob fight at Baltimore, on which occasion three men were killed and thirty wounded.

"Men of reflection have become satisfied that a nation, like an individual, is by the laws of nature—the laws of God, clothed with the right of self-preservation: and when its existence is threatened, it is bound by a religious obligation to sustain its being at every hazard, and by all

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\*Adjutant-General's Report, page 16.



the fair means that God and nature have put in its power. War is to be dreaded, and prevented as far as practicable; but like the amputating knife, is allowable to save the life of the body politic. And though war in itself is a great calamity, and leaves many evils in its train, the history of the world shows that some of the grandest steps in civilization have grown out of the wars, which at the time were regarded as great calamities."

Apparently nothing but war could have checked the lordly pride of those southern masters, who fain would have made the chief corner-stone of their confederacy the institution of slavery. No people were ever more humiliated than those conspirators who took the sword, and their cause perished by the sword.

A dismal despondency hangs over the distressed people of the gulf states, the educated portion of whom can never adapt themselves to the grade of poverty to which they have been levelled by the war. Undoubtedly the time will come, after the present generation has passed away, when commerce will spread her wings over their navigable waters—when the hoarse breathing of the steam engine will keep time with their various industries—when Education will dispense her favors irrespective of race or complexion, and the flag, once spurned by their fathers, will be a blessed symbol.

On the twentieth of April, 1861, a warrant was posted at the usual places, in Townsend, calling a town meeting on the twenty-seventh day of said April, which contained the following article:—

"2. To see if the town will take any measures to facilitate the enrolment or enlistment of volunteers, whose



services shall be tendered to the Governor of the Commonwealth, or through him to the President of the United States."

On this article, voted and chose a committee of five citizens to report to the town a plan for its action. Chose for said committee, Henry Seeva, Walter Fessenden, Daniel L. Brown, Nathaniel F. Cummings, and Samuel S. Haynes, who submitted the following preamble and resolutions, which were accepted and adopted by a unanimous vote of the town:—

"Whereas, a portion of the states of this confederacy, are now in open rebellion against the Government, and whereas, the President of these United States has called upon the Loyal States for a Military force sufficient to suppress the rebellion and maintain the laws of the land:

"Now, therefore, we, the citizens of Townsend in town meeting assembled, hereby declare our undying love for liberty, and our sacred regard for the Constitution as transmitted to us by its founders.

"Resolved, that we tender to the Government our sympathy, and if necessity require, our lives and property.

"Resolved, that our foreign born citizens, for the promptness with which they have rallied to the support of this their adopted country, have laid us, the native born citizens, under everlasting obligations, and that our gratitude for their support and sympathy should be appropriately, cheerfully, and promptly acknowledged."

"Voted, that Walter Fessenden, Daniel S. Brown, Nathaniel F. Cummings, James N. Tucker, and Alfred M. Adams, be a committee to take immediate measures for the enrolment of a company of able-bodied men.



whose services shall forthwith be tendered to the government."

"Voted, to provide for the families of those who may need assistance during their actual service."

The President called for seventy-five thousand men, through the war department, on the fifteenth of April, 1861. The gentlemen of the committee, chosen at this town meeting, and other men of wealth and influence, appealed to the patriotism of the citizens, assuring them that the families of married men should be cared for, in case they should volunteer to fill the quota of the town. During the next June, seven Townsend men were enlisted, and were mustered into the Sixth Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers (June 19). The names of these men, and their record in connection with the regiment, are here presented:—

Henry J. Parker.	Mustered out at expiration of term.
Frederick A. Jones.	Mustered out at expiration of term.
Robert F. Webb.	Mustered out at expiration of term.
John Quigg.	Credited to Pepperell. Mustered out at expiration of term.
Ransom C. Watson.	Mustered out at expiration of term.
George N. Spaulding.	Mustered out at expiration of term.
Daniel Sidelinger.	Mustered out at expiration of term.

These men enlisted for three months, but the record shows that they were mustered out, August 2, 1861. Most





of these soldiers re-enlisted into other regiments, and their record will appear further on in this chapter.

It appears that the seceding states had been making preparations for a fight, for some time, while the North, with the exception of a few regiments of volunteer militia, in Massachusetts and one or two other states, was unprepared for either an offensive or a defensive war.

During the summer and fall of 1861, the North began to "get on its muscle," and "guess" that something must be done. In September, of this year, thirty-two Townsend men volunteered into the service, and joined the Twenty-Sixth Massachusetts Regiment, Company G. This regiment was mustered in, October 18, 1861, and mustered out, August 26, 1865. It sailed from Boston directly for Ship Island, where it arrived by steamer, in less than ten days from the time of its departure. It was a part of the Nineteenth Army Corps, Department of the Gulf. It took part in the engagements of Winchester, Cedar Creek, and Fisher's Hill.

The names and account of the Townsend men are as follows:—

Loren Hosley.

Discharged at expiration of term of service, Nov. 7, 1864.

George A. Adams.

Discharged at expiration of term of service, Nov. 7, 1864.

Charles W. Dix.

Promoted Sept. 27, 1863, to quarter-master sergeant. Re-enlisted Jan. 1, 1864. Promoted March 15, 1865, to second lieutenant Co. B. Discharged June 18, 1865.



James Willard. Residence, White- field, Maine.	Discharged for disability—date unknown. Enlisted for Town- send quota. .
Ally B. Brown.	Transferred March 1, 1864, to what regiment is unknown.
Elijah T. Bates.	Killed at Winchester, Va., Sept. 19, 1864.
Charles H. Brown.	Killed at Winchester, Va., Sept. 19, 1864.
Warren B. Clark.	Discharged at expiration of term of service, Nov. 7, 1864.
Franklin F. Cross.	Died at Marine Hospital, April 12, 1863, at New Orleans.
William Davis.	Veteran—Re-enlisted in same company and regiment, Jan. 1, 1864. Mustered out with the regiment.
Russell O. Houghton.	Second sergeant, Nov. 1, 1861. Promoted to second lieutenant, Sept. 30, 1862. Promoted to first lieutenant, Dec. 12, 1863. Promoted to captain, Oct. 18, 1864. Mustered out with the regiment.
Alvah Richardson.	Mustered out with the regiment.
Charles Willard.	Co. B, Capt. E. S. Clark, either re-enlisted, or was transferred to Mass. Third Cavalry. Died Nov. 9, 1863, at New Orleans.
James A. Sanborn.	Drowned at New Orleans, Aug. 27, 1863.
Frederick A. Jones.	Co. B, Capt. E. S. Clark. Killed in action, at Winchester, Va., Sept. 19, 1864.



Samuel W. Grifflith.	Mustered out at expiration of term of service.
Merrick L. Gilson.	Co. B, Capt. E. S. Clark. Discharged at New Orleans, Oct. 10, 1862.
Charles R. Shattuck.	With Capt. S. R. Fletcher. Discharged for disability, at New Orleans, Sept. 11, 1862.
William Hunt.	Mustered out at expiration of term of service.
Charles L. Spaulding.	Died of diphtheria, Oct. 15, 1864, in Pennsylvania.
Myron F. Goings.	Promoted to commissary sergeant, Nov. 1, 1861. Mustered out at the expiration of term of service.
Charles J. Hapgood.	Mustered out at expiration of term of service.
Charles L. Hall.	Transferred to another regiment. March 1, 1864.
Charles H. Martin.	Died Aug. 20, 1862, at St. James Hospital, New Orleans.
Aaron S. Petts.	Discharged, from Mass. Gen. Hospital, March 28, 1864.
Al H. Spalding.	Veteran—Re-enlisted in same company, Feb. 1, 1864. Mustered out with the regiment.
Andrew H. Sloan.	Veteran—Re-enlisted in same company, Feb. 1, 1864. Mustered out with the regiment.
Frank Stevens.	Promoted to corporal, July 30, 1862. Veteran—Re-enlisted in same company, Jan. 6, 1864. Killed in action, at Winchester, Va., Sept. 19, 1864.



Francis W. Wood.	Veteran—Re-enlisted in same company, Jan. 3, 1864. Discharged for disability, June 19, 1865.
Ransom C. Watson.	Killed in action at Winchester, Va., Sept. 19, 1864.
Lysander P. Taylor.	Discharged at New Orleans for disability, May 17, 1863.
John Shattuck.	Veteran—Re-enlisted in same company. Mustered out with the regiment.

As has been seen, Townsend sent forty-two men into the field during the first year of the war. Before June, 1862, the battles of Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, and Shiloh, had been fought and won against the secessionists. The mouth of the Mississippi had been cleared of rebel batteries, and its forts captured. New Orleans was under the military rule of General Butler. The success of the loyal troops, particularly in the west and southwest, in nearly every engagement, had been complete, and the people of the North were hopeful of a speedy suppression of the rebellion. But the reverses in the Shenandoah Valley, and the imminent danger of a successful attempt to take Washington, caused the President to issue the call for three hundred thousand men, for three years, which he did on the first of July, 1862.

Under this call, twenty-five men of this town, on the twenty-second of July, volunteered into the service, and joined the Thirty-Third Massachusetts Regiment of Volunteers, Company E, Capt. William H. H. Hinds, of Groton, (discharged May 17, 1863,) and afterward under command of Capt. George M. Walker, of Newton.





This regiment was mustered into the service of the United States, August 13, 1862. Mustered out, June 11, 1865. It took part in the engagements at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Beverly Ford, Gettysburg, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and the several battles of Sherman's grand army. It may be mentioned that there were only one or two regiments from this Commonwealth, that endured as many hardships, or faced death on the battle-field, as often and as bravely as did the Thirty-Third Massachusetts Volunteers. On the arrival of the regiment at Boston, June 13, 1865, Mayor Lincoln gave it a generous reception; after parading the principal streets, the regiment marched to Faneuil Hall and partook of a bountiful collation, furnished by the city authorities. Names of the volunteers and their record:—

George W. Bennett.	Discharged for disability, Dec. 9, 1862.
Abijah W. Blood.	Died of chronic diarrhœa, at Baltimore, August 12, 1863. Buried at Townsend Centre.
James Buckley.	Wounded March 16, 1865. Discharged at hospital.
George E. Clark. (Bugler.)	Mustered out June 11, 1862.
Thomas Dalrymple.	Died at Lookout Valley Farm, of disease, 1864. Buried at Chattanooga.
Lewis Gonnier. (Naturalized, from Canada.)	Left regiment, 1864. Transferred to Invalid Corps.
Andrew D. Heselton.	Mustered out at expiration of term of service.



James King.	Mustered out at expiration of term of service.
Clarence W. Sylvester.	Discharged for disability, July 21, 1864. Died of consumption, 1864. Buried in Townsend.
Charles E. Marshall.	Died of disease, at Germantown, Va., Dec. 4, 1862.
Dominick May. (Blacksmith.)	Mustered out at expiration of term of service.
Waldo T. Tower. (Blacksmith.)	Mustered out at expiration of term of service.
Jonah Parker.	Wounded in the neck by a gunshot, at Raccoon Ridge, Look-out Valley Farm, Oct. 29, 1864. Nearly lost his life.
Henry J. Parker. (Enlisted first sergeant.)	Promoted to second lieutenant, March 29, 1863. Promoted to first lieutenant, July 16, 1863. Killed in action, at Resica, Ga., May 15, 1864.
Charles W. Parker.	Promoted to sergeant, August, 1863. Mustered out with regiment, at expiration of term of service.
Simeon K. Richards.	Wounded at Resica, Ga., May 15, 1864. Died of his wound, June 25, 1864. Buried at Chattanooga.
Sylvester T. Wheeler.	Died June 10, 1864, from a wound received in action, at Resica, Ga. Buried at Chattanooga.
Charles W. Wetherbee.	Died of disease, Dec. 29, 1862.



Jefferson Whitcomb.	Mustered out at expiration of term of service.
Evander W. Wright.	Wounded slightly, at Lookout Valley Farm, Oct. 29, 1863. Mustered out of regiment on detached hospital duty, at Nashville, Tenn.
Franklin S. Wright.	Killed at Lookout Valley Farm, Oct. 29, 1863. Buried at Chattanooga.
Andrew L. Woodard.	Died of disease, Nov. 8, 1864. Buried at Chattanooga.
William H. Wright.	Mustered out of regiment and detached on hospital duty at Nashville, Tenn.
Lewis T. Wright.	Promoted to corporal, April 16, 1864. Died of disease, Oct. 14, 1864.
Abram Clark.	Discharged Jan. 4, 1863.
Oliver B. Osborn.	Died of disease, Nov. 4, 1862, at Thoroughfare Gap, where his comrades buried him "beneath a chestnut tree."

This regiment used up two stands of colors, which were so torn and mutilated by wear and bullets, that they would scarcely hang together. They were sent home and deposited in the state house, with other mementos of this sanguinary conflict. A third stand of colors was sent to the regiment, on which were inscribed the names of the twenty-two battles in which it was engaged.

The Sixth Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, re-enlisted in August, 1862, for nine months, and were



mustered out, in June, 1863. It participated in the siege of Suffolk, Virginia, which continued from April 11 to May 4, 1863. It was in a skirmish at a place called Deserted House, where it lost several men, killed. Five Townsend men were with Capt. George F. Shattuck, of Groton, in this regiment, viz :—

Richard Pierce.	Mustered out at expiration of term of service.
Albert D. Turner.	Mustered out at expiration of term of service.
Alanson Withington.	Killed Jan. 30, 1863, in a skirmish near Suffolk, Va., at a place called Deserted House.
Charles W. Hildreth.	Mustered out at expiration of term of service.
Charles A. Wright.	Detached on hospital duty. Mustered out at expiration of term of service.

The first of August, 1862, the President called for three hundred thousand nine months men. War meetings during that month were frequently held, at the town hall, to devise means to fill the quota of the town. At one of these assemblies of the citizens, Anson D. Fessenden was selected to recruit a company, if possible, if not, as many as he could. He attended to that duty in a commendable manner, and on the second day of September following, forty Townsend men, including himself, volunteered for nine months, and signed enlistment papers. A sufficient number of recruits enlisted, about the same time, in the town of Shirley, and other neighboring towns, which were added to the Townsend men, to make up a company. The







*A D Fessenden*



officers chosen for this company were: Andrew J. Clough, of Shirley, captain; Anson D. Fessenden, of Townsend, first lieutenant; Stephen W. Longley, of Shirley, second lieutenant.

This company was attached to the Fifty-Third Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, and was designated Company D. Mustered in, October 17, 1862.

Captain Clough was discharged at the city of New York, on the outward transit, January 23, 1863, "on surgeon's certificate, by special order, No. 26."

Lieutenant Fessenden was in command of this company till September 2, 1863, when the regiment was mustered out.

Anson D. Fessenden, the son of Benjamin and Betsey (Stevens) Fessenden, was born February 18, 1839. At a suitable age he was sent to Wilbraham Academy, where he diligently applied himself to his studies, standing well in his class. He was prompt in his attendance, and gave strict attention to the exercises of that institution. During the year 1861, he was a member of the scientific department of Union College, where he pursued the studies of mathematics and civil engineering. The fact, that he has a good command of language, and just confidence enough to make him a good public speaker, is sufficient proof that he improved his time while he was a student. On the first day of January, 1864, he joined his father in the coopering trade. Since that time, this firm, doing business under the name and style of B. & A. D. Fessenden, has done an extensive business in the manufacture and shipping of goods in that line. As a manufacturer, he is as popular with his workmen as he was with the "boys in blue" under his command. He is a man of a social and



agreeable disposition, and much respected as a townsman. He represented this district in the lower branch of the General Court, in 1865. He married Thirza A. Boutell, of this town, December 6, 1865.

The Fifty-Third Regiment served in the Department of the Gulf,—Nineteenth Army Corps—John W. Kimball, of Fitchburg, colonel in command.

This regiment was in the battle of Port Hudson, May 27, 1863; assault on Port Hudson, June 14, 1863; siege of Port Hudson, from May 24 to July 8, 1863; March 12, 1863, skirmish with enemy on the Bayou Road; skirmish at Pattersonville, La., near Fort Bisland, April 12, 1863; skirmish in front of Port Hudson, May 24, 1863. Names of Townsend men on the roll of Company D:—

John Q. Adams.	Corporal—Promoted to sergeant. Discharged July 24, 1863, by special order No. 189. Re-enlisted on Banks' body guard.
Isaac Allen.	Died on his way home, on board steamer, near Memphis, Tenn., Aug. 16, 1863, of chronic diarrhœa. Buried at Memphis, Tenn.
Wallis S. Arlan.	Killed in action at Port Hudson, June 14, 1863.
John B. Blood.	Mustered out with the regiment.
Daniel Brogan.	Mustered out with the regiment.
John A. Brown.	Promoted to corporal, April 11, 1863. Mustered out with the regiment.
William Bush.	Sergeant—Mustered out with the regiment.



Charles S. Champney.	Mustered out with the regiment.
Edmund O. Day.	In Co. C, with Leominster men. Mustered out with regiment.
William Farmer.	Mustered out with the regiment.
Anson D. Fessenden.	First lieutenant. Promoted to captain, May 21, 1863. Mus- tered out with regiment.
Andrew Foster.	Mustered out with the regiment.
Adams S. Graham.	Mustered out with the regiment.
George S. Graham.	Mustered out with the regiment.
Harlan F. Green.	Fourth sergeant. Mustered out with the regiment.
John Haynes.	Corporal. Died of typhoid fever. July 13, 1863, at Port Hud- son. Buried at Port Hudson.
John P. Hildreth.	Mustered out with the regiment.
Webster Hoffses.	Mustered out with the regiment.
Leander C. Jeffs.	Mustered out with the regiment.
Dennisson S. Kimball.	Killed in action at Port Hudson, June 14, 1863.
Francis A. Laws.	Discharged Jan. 15, 1863. Sur- geon's certificate.
Lewis O. Laws.	Died at Marine Hospital, New Orleans, Aug. 5, 1863.
William Ordway.	Mustered out with the regiment.
Henry C. Nichols.	Died of typhoid fever, at Charity Hospital, New Orleans, March 21, 1863.
Levi T. Parker.	Mustered out with the regiment.
Shubell B. Pierce.	Mustered out with the regiment.





Hiram F. Richards.	Mustered out with the regiment.
John Richards.	Co. C, with Leominster men. Mustered out with regiment.
Edson A. Richardson.	Died at Marine Hospital, New Orleans, of chronic diarrhoea, May 6, 1863.
Dennis J. Shehan.	Died July 10, 1863, of wounds received at Port Hudson, June 14, 1863.
George A. Sherwin.	Discharged from Hospital, at New Orleans, June 18, 1863. Surgeon's certificate.
Alden W. Smith.	Mustered out with the regiment.
Benjamin B. Spalding.	Mustered out with the regiment. Veteran—Re-enlisted Aug. 24, 1864, into the Twenty-Fourth Mass. Regiment. Mustered out with the regiment.
Frederick F. Spalding.	Discharged by special order, July 24, 1863. Re-enlisted in Banks' body-guard.
Augustus G. Stickney.	Mustered out with the regiment.
William E. Sylvester.	Mustered out with the regiment.
Levi Wares.	Died Feb. 9, 1863, of inflammation of the lungs. Buried at Cypress Grove, New Orleans. —Hospital record.
Alson S. Warren.	Died of chronic diarrhoea, at Baton Rouge, La., April 6, 1863.
William H. Woodward.	Mustered out with the regiment.
Thomas H. Warren.	Discharged July, 24, 1863. Re-enlisted in Banks' body-guard.



The following are the names of Townsend men in various regiments :—

Patrick Murray.	Enlisted July 2, 1861, for three years, in Sixteenth Mass. Regiment. Wounded at battle of Gettysburg, July 3, 1863. Discharged by order of General Wadsworth.
Charles C. Cobleigh. (Bugler.)	Enlisted September, 1861, for three years, in First Mass. Cavalry. Discharged Sept. 24, 1864.
Henry O. Adams.	Enlisted August, 1861, for three years, in Fifteenth Mass. Regiment. Discharged Feb. 7, 1863.
James E. Brooks.	Enlisted Sept. 15, 1862, in Second New Hampshire Regiment. Received bounty from town of Temple, New Hampshire. Mustered out with regiment.
Amos Pierce.	Enlisted Sept. 20, 1861, in First Mass. Cavalry. Promoted to corporal Feb. 21, 1862. Transferred to Fourth Cavalry. Discharged for disability, Nov. 25, 1862, on surgeon's certificate.
Boyd Todd.	Enlisted Sept. 28, 1861, for three years, in Twenty-Third Mass. Regiment. Wounded in action at White Hall, North Carolina, Dec. 16, 1862. Discharged June 12, 1863.
Edward Potter.	Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862, in First Mass. Regiment. Mustered out with the regiment. May 25, 1864.



Lorenzo Bruce.	Enlisted Oct. 18, 1861, for three years, in First Mass. Cavalry. Discharged at expiration of term of service.
James A. Willard.	Enlisted Sept. 20, 1861, for three years, in First Mass. Cavalry. Transferred to Fourth Cavalry. Corporal—Discharged for disability, May 11, 1862.
George Spalding.	Enlisted Sept. 30, 1861, for three years, in First Mass. Cavalry. Transferred to Fourth Cavalry. Discharged at expiration of term of service.
William H. Lewis.	Enlisted May 19, 1861, for three years, in Twelfth Mass. Regiment. Credited to the town of Weymouth. Mustered out with the regiment.
Alden Adams.	Enlisted for nine months, Aug. 29, 1862, in Forty-Fourth Mass. Regiment. Credited to Dorchester. Discharged at expiration of term of service.
Leonard O. Bruce.	Enlisted for three years, July 26, 1862, in Thirty-Sixth Mass. Regiment. Corporal—Discharged April 29, 1863.
William T. Barrett.	Enlisted Aug. 6, 1862, for three years, in Thirty-Ninth Mass. Regiment. Third Corporal—Mustered out with regiment.
William T. Adams.	Enlisted Sept. 27, 1861, for three years, in Twenty-Fifth Mass. Regiment. Died in Libby Prison, July 23, 1864.



Charles Searles.

Enlisted July 2, 1861, for three years, in Sixteenth Mass. Regiment. Discharged at expiration of term of service.

Julius C. Eastman.

Enlisted March 7, 1864, in Sixteenth Mass. Regiment, Light Battery. Mustered out with regiment.

Henry H. Hosley.

Enlisted July 12, 1861, for three years, in Fifteenth Mass. Regiment. Discharged for disability, Nov. 12, 1862.

Joseph O. Hildrith.

Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862, for three years, in Fortieth Mass. Regiment. Mustered out with the regiment, June 16, 1865.

Oliver E. Hazard.  
(Colored.)

Enlisted December, 1863, for three years, in Fifty-Fourth Mass. Regiment. Wounded slightly, Feb. 20, 1864. All the men in this regiment, except the officers, were of African descent. Mustered out with the regiment.

Horace Hazard.  
(Colored.)

Drafted. Served in Fifty-Fourth Mass. Regiment. This was the only Townsend man who was drafted that went to the war. Mustered out with the regiment.

Nahum G. Hazard.  
(Colored.)

Enlisted Aug. 27, 1864, for one year, in Fifty-Fifth Mass. Regiment, Company I. All colored men in this regiment, except the officers. Mustered out with the regiment.





John J. Hennessey. (Colored.)	Enlisted May 4, 1864, for three years, in Fifth Mass. Cavalry. Mustered out with regiment. All colored men in this regiment.
William A. Champney.	Enlisted July 19, 1862, for three years, in Thirty-Seventh Mass. Regiment. Credited to the town of Hadley. Mustered out at expiration of term of service.
Edwin Adams.	Enlisted for three years, in Sixteenth Mass. Regiment. Wounded severely in right hand by a shell. Lost his hand. Discharged—date unknown.
Thomas H. Welch.	Enlisted September, 1864, for one year, in Heavy Artillery.
Robert Welch.	Enlisted Aug. 2, 1864, in Second Regiment Heavy Artillery.
Daniel T. Goodwin.	Enlisted Aug. 31, 1864, for one year, in Nineteenth Regiment Heavy Artillery. Mustered out with regiment.
George F. French.	Enlisted at Sioux City, in Spring of 1861, in First Nebraska Regiment, with Capt. Hollins. Died at Syracuse, Missouri, of fever, Nov. 24, 1861.
Horace E. Lawrence.	Enlisted at Boston, for three years, March 12, 1862, into Third Regiment Rhode Island Artillery. Discharged at Hilton Head, for disability, Dec. 26, 1862. Died and was buried in Townsend, in May, 1863.



The following is a list of the names of men who enlisted in August, 1864, for one year, and were mustered in on the twenty-fifth of the same month. They are described in the records as belonging to the "Twenty-Fourth Massachusetts Regiment, Unattached Heavy Artillery." They were stationed at Fort Delaware and near the city of Washington :—

Vernal Barber.	Mustered out with the regiment.
John A. Brown.	Discharged May 3, 1865.
William Coombs.	Mustered out with the regiment.
George H. Ellis.	Died at Mount Pleasant Hospital, Washington, D. C., Dec. 30, 1864.
Jonas L. Jennerson.	Discharged May 5, 1865.
Benjamin F. King.	Mustered out with the regiment.
Augustus Lovejoy.	Mustered out with the regiment.
Newell F. Putnam.	Mustered out with the regiment.
Nathaniel A. Ripley.	Mustered out with the regiment.
Benjamin B. Spalding.	Served with Fifty-Third Mass. Regiment. Re-enlisted in this regiment, August, 1864. Mus- tered out with regiment.
Amos Webber.	Credited to the quota of Fitch- burg. Mustered out with the regiment.
Elbridge A. Wright.	Mustered out with the regiment. Committed suicide ; shot him- self, May 17, 1872.



A roll of the men who enlisted, July 7, 1864, for one hundred days, and proceeded to Washington and performed guard duty at Arlington Heights, and at other places, near the Capital. The men are represented in the record as belonging to Company B, Sixth Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers. No casualties happened to these men during their absence:—

Charles Adams.	James C. Moody.
Joseph Baxter.	Al Richards.
James Brogan.	Charles Spaulding.
Rufus T. Brown.	Marshall D. Spaulding.
George H. Green.	Henry Sturtevant.
Samuel K. Gilson.	William R. Wright.
George S. Graham.	John B. Spaulding.
Charles W. Hildreth.	

In closing the record of those who thus gave their best efforts to preserve the Union, it must be remembered, that to every call for troops, a response from the citizens of the town went forth as generous as the revolutionary fathers returned one hundred years ago. While the town was pouring forth its treasures without stint or reluctance, these patriotic men gave their presence in the "tiger strife,"—their lives to the cause. The terrible battle-fields of Virginia, Louisiana, and other states, testify to the bravery of these Townsend young men, *twelve* of whom were killed in action, and *twenty-two* lost their lives by starvation in rebel prisons, disease and the casualties of war.

The loss of their lives caused many sorrowful hearts; many tearful eyes watched for the news from every battle-



field. Their widows and orphans are still mournful at their early bereavement of husbands and fathers.

"How sleep the brave who sink to rest,  
By all their country's wishes blest,  
Where Spring with dewy fingers cold,  
Returns to deck their hallowed mould,  
She there shall find a sweeter sod,  
Than fancy's feet have ever trod.

"By fairy forms their dirge is sung,  
By hands unseen their knell is rung;  
There Honor comes a pilgrim gray,  
To bless the turf that wraps their clay,  
And Freedom shall a while repair  
To dwell a weeping hermit there."

The foregoing rolls contain the names of all the Townsend men, as far as is known, who volunteered to assist in suppressing the rebellion. No mention of the substitutes has been made, as they were mere merchandise, used for the time to shield the men who chose to purchase them rather than to take the risks of war upon their own shoulders.

It has been a source of pleasure to the writer, that, during the entire labor of examining muster rolls, discharge papers, diaries, Adjutant-General's reports, and town records, in order to present a correct history of these volunteers, that the word "*deserted*" has never been found, written or printed, opposite to the name of one of them. Nearly every one of these volunteers, who returned after the rebellion was crushed, assumed the duties of industrious citizens, with as much fidelity as though they had never been introduced to "grim-visaged war."

The town records, during the time the rebellion was in progress, were not kept with the greatest accuracy, but, as near as can be ascertained from all sources, Townsend sent to the field, troops enlisted for three months, one





hundred days, nine months, and three years or for the war, including substitutes, to the number of two hundred and seventy men, of whom one hundred and sixty-one were voters in this town at the time of their enlistment.

The services of the women of this town, acting in concert with the Sanitary Commission, are not to be overlooked. During the war, from the time our soldiers were first encamped within the borders of the state, till they returned home at the expiration of their term of service, they were remembered by this class of patient toilers. The sessions of the Ladies' Benevolent Society were many, which were devoted to industrious efforts in making quilts, clothing, lint, and cushions for broken limbs. The busy hands of the home-circle, similarly employed, should also be mentioned. The goods thus made together with condiments, provisions, stimulants, and delicacies, purchased at considerable expense, suitable for those who were suffering in the hospitals, were, at different times, carefully packed, filling many boxes and barrels, and forwarded in a cause where philanthropy was at a premium. Among the ladies who were active in this womanly sympathy, the names of Mrs. Dr. Bertram, Mrs. Ralph Ball, Mrs. Jonas Spalding, Jr., Mrs. Noah Ball, and others (did space admit), might be mentioned. Their efforts awakened gladness in many hearts, and will be held in grateful remembrance, as was that of Eunice Locke, of revolutionary fame. This chapter now closes with the simple statement, that, all that is claimed for Townsend, during those modern "days that tried men's souls," is, that the town did its duty in a commendable manner, compared with the other towns of this time-honored Commonwealth.



## CHAPTER XII.

### *LAWYERS, PHYSICIANS, AND COLLEGE GRADUATES.*

**LAWYERS:** Walter Hastings—Aaron Keyes—Frederick A. Worcester.  
**PHYSICIANS:** Joseph Adams—Samuel Hosley—Isaac Mullikin—  
 Samuel Lovejoy—Moses Kidder—John Bertram—Ebenezer P.  
 Hills—Augustus G. Stickney—John Heard—Royal B. Boynton—  
 Charles J. Towne. **COLLEGE GRADUATES:** John Hubbard—  
 Abraham Butterfield—Daniel Adams—Joseph Walker—William  
 Farmer—John Stevens—Joel Giles—John Graham—John Giles  
 —Charles Brooks—Warren Brooks—Mark Davis—Charles T.  
 Haynes—John M. Proctor—Randall Spaulding—Eliel S. Ball—  
 Wayland Spaulding.

The following memoirs and sketches of the lawyers and physicians, contain the names of those only who have resided here for considerable time, and have been permanently identified with the interests of Townsend. Probably more men, of the medical profession, have come here and had a temporary residence, than the number of those whose names will appear in this chapter. Men, having various grades of skill, character, and learning, have given this town a short trial, and then taken their departure. A promising young physician, by the name of Gerry, about 1848, came to Townsend Centre and located. He married Caroline Brooks, daughter of Samuel Brooks, of this town. Within a short time after his settlement here,



while engaged in a surgical operation, he got some virus into a slight scratch in his hand, which caused his death very suddenly. The "what might have been" was deeply considered by his widow and friends whom he left behind. There have been only two or three lawyers who came to Townsend and made it their residence for a short time.

WALTER HASTINGS was the first lawyer who made Townsend a residence and a place of business. He was born in Chelmsford, 1778, was graduated at Harvard College, 1799, and studied law with Judge Prescott, of Groton. He commenced practice here, soon after he was admitted to the bar, in 1803. His father and grandfather were both graduates of Harvard College, and both were prominent patriots in the revolutionary service. He lived at the Harbor, and is remembered by the elderly people of Townsend, of both sexes, as a man of elegant personal appearance ("a handsome man"), and of dignified address.

In 1808, he was chosen captain of the North Company of Townsend, which office he held till 1812, when, war with England having been declared, he was appointed colonel, and was placed in command of about three thousand Middlesex county troops, stationed at Fort Warren, now Fort Winthrop.\* He remained in command till the close of the war, when he returned to Townsend and resumed practice in his profession. He took great interest in military affairs, which engrossed much of his time and attention, even after peace was declared, for which reason,

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\*The war with England, in 1812, was not popular in Massachusetts. Townsend had six or eight drafted men with Colonel Hastings, at Fort Warren, among whom were John Emery, Daniel Campbell and Samuel Searls. These men were absent from home only a short time.



probably, he did not stand in the front rank of the legal profession. He possessed first-class abilities, both natural and acquired.

In 1814, he married Roxanna Warren, daughter of Moses Warren. She survived him, and afterward married Elisha Glidden. Colonel Hastings died, June 6, 1821, and at his solicitation, he was buried with military honors, at Townsend Centre. The Townsend Light Infantry, Captain Levi Warren, was in attendance as a guard of honor, and discharged "the last farewell shot" at the portals of his sepulchre.

AARON KEYES, the second lawyer who practiced in this town, was born at Westford, in 1791. He was a good scholar, and he enjoyed the privileges of a thorough academic education. He commenced reading law in an office at Bridgewater, in this state, and finished his studies in that direction with John Abbott, a lawyer practicing at Westford. He was admitted to the bar in 1822, and he opened an office at Townsend Centre, the same year. He was in practice in this town from the time of settlement here till his death, which occurred in 1842, a period of twenty years. He was postmaster, at the central village, from 1826 to 1835. He was a good counsellor, well read in his profession, and withal, not inclined to "engender strife" among his acquaintances, for the purpose of making business which would turn to his pecuniary advantage. He was much respected as a townsman, and what is rather the exception than the rule among men of the legal profession, his chirography was neat and perfectly legible, which made him an excellent conveyancer. In 1824, he married Martha Warren, daughter of Moses Warren.





FREDERICK A. WORCESTER was the third person who permanently located in Townsend, in the practice of law. He was born in Hollis, New Hampshire, 1807. His father, Jesse Worcester, Esq., was the most influential man of his time, in that town.

When only fifteen years old, young Jesse was at Ticonderoga, in 1776, and he did good service in the continental army during the latter part of the war. This revolutionary patriot married when about twenty-two years of age, and subsequently "many children played around his door." By his good management, industry, and their help, he found means to give five of his sons a collegiate education: Joseph E. Worcester (the Lexicographer), Yale College, 1811; Rev. Taylor G. Worcester, Harvard University, 1823; Rev. Henry A. Worcester, Yale College, 1828; Hon. Samuel T. Worcester, Harvard University, 1830; Hon. Frederick A. Worcester, Harvard University, 1831.

In addition to these five sons, who were college graduates, two other sons fitted and entered college. Jesse Worcester, Jr., born 1782, fitted for, and afterward entered Harvard College, 1809, and died in 1809. His brothers have credited him with being the quickest of apprehension, and having the greatest natural scope of intellect of any of them. Rev. Grant Powers, in a centennial address, delivered at Hollis, in September, 1830, says of him: "Jesse Worcester, Jr., was a rare youth." \* \* \* \* \* "Over his remains, Genius wept for a favorite son, and the world sustained a loss of which she was unconscious." David Worcester, born 1808, entered the Freshman class at Harvard College in 1828, where he remained till near the close of the Junior year, when he left to accept a lucrative





F. A. Worcester



position as a teacher. It would be difficult to find another New England family which contained so many brothers who obtained a college education. These men all inherited the large vital forces and strong intellectual powers of their father.

Frederick A., fitted for college in part at Pinkerton Academy, in Derry, New Hampshire, and partly at Phillips Academy, Andover. At Cambridge, he ranked well in his class, which contained a large number of good scholars, among whom were Rev. John H. Morrison, Hon. John L. Motley, who was United States Minister at one time to Austria, and subsequently in the same office at the Court of St. James, Wendell Phillips, the agitator, and others, who have left their mark. Soon after his graduation he commenced the study of law, with Benjamin M. Farley, in his native village, where he remained about a year. From thence he entered the law school at Cambridge, and continued his studies there for one year. He finished his professional studies with George F. Farley, Esq., a noted lawyer, at Groton, the next year.

In September, 1835, he came to Townsend, intending to locate here, but at the solicitation of Hon. John B. Hill, (the historian of Mason, New Hampshire,) of the law firm of Appleton & Hill, Bangor, Maine, he was induced to go to that city and manage the office business of that firm. The position not being as agreeable as he anticipated, he returned to Townsend, the following summer, and opened a law office. Since that time he has diligently applied himself to his profession, and acquired a large practice. At present, he is considered one of the best men to prepare a case for a jury, that the county contains. He does not pretend to be an advocate, and is



not an eloquent speaker, but he possesses a masculine mind, is a good judge of law, and when associated at the bar with a good speaker, his clients are most always on the winning side. He appears to the best advantage before a bench of judges in cases carried up to the Supreme Court. Mr. Worcester is a man of strong passions and prejudices, and he generally takes more interest in the causes entrusted to his care than his clients do. For the last few years he has had an office at Ayer, residing in Townsend. In 1854, he married Jane M. Kellogg, of Amherst.

The first physician in Townsend, of which anything is known, was JOSEPH ADAMS, who came to this town in 1774, and left in 1776, when the patriots made it too warm for the tories, of which he was one. A more particular account of this man may be found in that part of this work which treats upon the loyalists in the revolution.

DR. SAMUEL HOSLEY, tradition says, was a surgeon in one of the New Hampshire regiments in the continental service. He was in practice for a long time, residing on the place now owned by Daniel Dix, on the east side of Hathorn's meadow. He was born there, in 1758. Nothing is known about his preparation or education for a physician or surgeon; and it is probable that his education was quite limited. He married Mary Farrar, of Concord.

DR. ISAAC MULLIKIN originated from Bradford. He came here from Lunenburg, about 1780, and located at the fork of the road, just easterly of the bridge over the brook that empties into Hathorn's meadow, from the southeast. The house which he built, and in which he lived, is still standing. The bridge over the brook at that place is





called, in the town records, the "ministerial bridge," Mr. Hemenway having owned the land on one side of this brook, and Mr. Dix the other side. He was a man of good culture and gentlemanly deportment, both careful and skilful in his profession. He was a justice of the peace. He was also town clerk for a number of years. The records, made by this gentleman, are neat, legibly written, and arranged with strict grammatical accuracy. He was much respected as a citizen, a physician, and as an exemplary man.

DR. SAMUEL LOVEJOY was born in Wilton, New Hampshire, in 1775. He received his education at New Ipswich Academy. It is not known where he took a medical degree, or whether he ever took one. In his time, it was the custom for young men desiring to become doctors, to pass a couple of years, more or less, with some experienced physician, from which apprenticeship they would emerge, don the Dr., and commence practice. Dr. Lovejoy, came to Townsend, in 1802, and was in practice here more than thirty years. He possessed a good share of natural affability, had only a few enemies, and was considered a skilled and competent physician. He was the last doctor in town who travelled on horseback, with saddle-bags, in which to carry his medicines. During the latter part of his life he became insane, and continued, at times, in that condition for a long time, which was a source of much grief and trouble to his friends and relatives. In 1802, he married Betsey Lawrence, of Groton, the oldest sister of Hon. Abbott Lawrence. For a second wife, he married Sarah Barr, of New Ipswich, in 1831. He died in 1851, aged 76.



DR. MOSES KIDDER was a native of Billerica. He fitted for college, and entered Williams College, two years in advance, where he spent the junior year in 1810, but he did not proceed further in a collegiate course. Most of the year 1811, he was studying with Dr. Stickney, of Antrim, New Hampshire, and the next year he was with Dr. Matthias Spaulding, of Amherst, New Hampshire, who, probably, was the best educated physician and surgeon, at that time, in the state. In 1813, he was a surgeon at Fort Warren. He practiced medicine at Dublin, New Hampshire, two or three years. He also was in practice at Littleton and Ashby, a short time at each place. He came to West Townsend and began practicing medicine about 1822. He was skilful, and had a large business, sometimes riding long distances to consult with his medical brethren in difficult cases. He did not have good health all the time, and occasionally, through over-exertion and anxiety, his physical condition was such that he should have been a patient rather than a medical adviser. On the tenth of December, 1814, he married Rachel Kendall, of Milford, New Hampshire. About 1835, he moved to Lowell, where he continued in the practice of his profession, and where he died.

DR. JOHN BERTRAM was a native of Peterborough, New Hampshire, born 1794. He took his medical degree at Dartmouth College in 1825. He was in practice in one of the towns of Hillsborough county, New Hampshire, with one, Dr. Farley, for about two years. He came to this town in 1827, and entered upon the duties of physician and surgeon at Townsend Centre. He died in December, 1846. During the nineteen years in which he was in



practice here, he obtained an extensive acquaintance, a good reputation, and the confidence of the community. He had many friends, and but few enemies. He married Mary, only daughter of Deacon Joel Adams.

DR. EBENEZER P. HILLS was born in Newbury, 1804. He fitted for college, but did not take a collegiate course of study. He studied medicine and took his medical degree from Bowdoin College, in 1825, where he ranked well as a scholar. He came to Townsend Harbor and began practice there in 1825, and remained there in business about twenty years.

He possessed more than ordinary natural abilities: was agreeable in his manners, fond of company, and enjoyed a good joke or a playful repartee. He spent the last part of his life at Shirley Centre, where he died in 1854, in the fiftieth year of his age. He married (1) Ruth Perkins, of Lunenburg, in 1826; (2) Betsey Perkins, of Lunenburg, in 1828; (3) Sophia Gerrish, daughter of Paul Gerrish, Esq., of Townsend Harbor, in 1841.

DR. JOHN HEARD was born about 1810, in the state of Maine. In 1838, he took the degree of Bachelor of Medicine, at Dartmouth College. He practiced medicine at Acworth, Hopkinton, and Rindge, New Hampshire, and at Leominster and Townsend. He was at Townsend Centre most of the time from 1852 to 1861. He rode in good style, after a well-cared-for fast horse, the team constituting the greater part of his wealth. Mr. Stearns, the historian of Rindge, says of him: "It is probable that Dr. Heard was deficient neither in skill or natural ability; but his cynical manners and current conversation repelled the respect and confidence of the community."



DR. AUGUSTUS G. STICKNEY was born in Antrim, New Hampshire, 1807. He was the son of Dr. Jeremiah Stickney, who was a practicing physician in that town for many years. After acquiring a good academical education, he entered the Berkshire Medical College, at Pittsfield, where he graduated as a Bachelor of Medicine, in 1833. Dr. Stickney married Louise Wilson, of Antrim, in 1834, and established himself in business, at West Townsend, the same year. He did a good share of the work required in this vicinity, and stood well with the members of the medical profession. He was admitted as a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, in 1844. He died, August, 1862, much lamented and highly respected.

DR. ROYAL B. BOYNTON was born in Pepperell, in 1836. While he was a student at Lawrence Academy, Groton, under James Means, principal, he was attacked with a severe inflammation of the eyes and partial loss of sight, at about the time he was finishing his preparatory studies, with the intention of entering college, one year in advance. For nearly a year he was almost entirely unfit for study. Like many professional men, he took his turn as schoolmaster, to raise money to pay the expenses of an education; abandoning the idea of a liberal education, he attended the Medical College, at Woodstock, Vermont, and took his degree from that institution, in 1852. He came to Townsend Centre, in 1853, and devoted a large part of his time to dentistry, in which business he was well patronized. Subsequently, he moved to West Townsend, where he is still in practice. Lately he has laid aside his dentistry, and given his attention to the general duties of physician and surgeon, in which capacity he has many friends and many enemies. He is quite skillful, and has a





large practice. He married Josephine Taft, November 12, 1863.

DR. EDWARD J. DONNELL was born in Lyndeborough, New Hampshire, in 1835. He graduated at Appleton Academy, New Ipswich, New Hampshire. He spent most of the time for three years, after his graduation, with Dr. Marshall, of Mason Village, New Hampshire, in the study of medicine and surgery, in which pursuit he was engaged at the outbreak of the rebellion. He enlisted, in 1862, into the Fifteenth Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers, Company C, in which he was second lieutenant. After this regiment was mustered out of service, he enlisted into the Thirteenth Maryland Infantry as assistant surgeon, in which capacity he served till the close of the war. His experience in this regiment was of great value to him. On his return to New Hampshire, in 1864, he immediately entered the medical department at Dartmouth College, and took his degree at that institution, in 1865. He commenced practice at Athol, and was there about two years. He came to West Townsend, and entered upon the practice of medicine, in 1870, and continued until October, 1876, when he left for Kansas. He was a member of the New Hampshire Medical Society. He married Ellen Prescott, of Mason, New Hampshire.

DR. CHARLES J. TOWNE was born in Stoddard, New Hampshire, in 1840. He was fond of his books when a child, and made rapid progress as a scholar. From the common school he went to the "Valley Seminary," a good institution, at Westmoreland, New Hampshire, where, after a course of three years, he graduated, in 1857. He studied medicine with Dr. O. H. Bradley, at East Jaffrey, New Hampshire, and afterward took a regular course of



study at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in the City of New York, where he graduated, in 1865. He settled in practice at Richmond, New Hampshire, and continued there about two years. In 1867, he moved to Townsend Centre, where he has remained to the present time. During his practice of ten years in this town, he has made a good record. He has generally been called the second time, and onward, after once making the acquaintance of a family. He responds at once to all calls for his services, no matter what the weather, distance to be travelled, or condition of the roads may be, and he keeps his appointments. October 23, 1868, he married Nancie Lewis, daughter of Benjamin F. Lewis, Esq. He is a modest man—seldom uses the perpendicular pronoun—keeps his own counsel and minds his own business.

The following names comprise the list of the seventeen Townsend men who graduated at college. It will be noticed that their record is very creditable to the town:—

JOHN HUBBARD, Dartmouth College, 1785.

ABRAHAM BUTTERFIELD, Dartmouth College, 1796.

DANIEL ADAMS, Dartmouth College, 1797.

JOSEPH WALKER, Bowdoin College, 1818.

WILLIAM FARMER, Harvard College, 1819.

JOHN STEVENS, Middlebury College, 1821.

JOEL GILES, Harvard College, 1829.

JOHN GRAHAM, Amherst College, 1829.

JOHN GILES, Harvard College, 1831.

CHARLES BROOKS, Yale College, 1853.

WARREN BROOKS, Harvard College, 1855.

MARK DAVIS, Dartmouth College, 1856.

CHARLES T. HAYNES, Amherst College, 1862.

JOHN M. PROCTOR, Dartmouth College, 1863.

RANDALL SPAULDING, Yale College, 1870.

ELIEL S. BALL, Dartmouth College, 1874.

WAYLAND SPAULDING, Yale College, 1874.



JOHN HUBBARD was the first person of this town who aspired to and received college honors. He was born in 1759. Graduated at Dartmouth College, 1785. Died at Hanover, 1810, aged fifty-one. He worked on a farm till he arrived at majority, when he commenced fitting for college, and at the age of twenty-two entered Dartmouth. He studied theology after his graduation and commenced preaching, but found his voice too feeble for a public speaker. He was the first preceptor of New Ipswich Academy, from 1789 to 1795, and by his good management the academy was brought into public favor. In 1797, he was engaged as preceptor of Walpole Academy. In 1798, he was appointed Judge of Probate for Cheshire County, New Hampshire, which office he held till 1802, when he resigned. He was then chosen preceptor of Deerfield Academy, but on the death of one of the professors of Dartmouth College, he was elected to the vacant chair of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, in that college, which office he held until his death. He was a man of much versatility of talent, an excellent mathematician, a good linguist and noted musician. During his professorship he was very popular with the graduating classes. In 1803, he published "The Rudiments of Geography," and the "American Reader" in 1808. He wrote an essay on music, which was read before the Middlesex musical association, afterwards ordered to be printed. This Association numbered among its members Rev. David Palmer, of Townsend, Rev. Daniel Chaplain, of Groton, Rev. John Bullard, of Pepperell, Rev. Ebenezer Hill, of Mason. Lowell Mason, and many others of the best musical talent and culture. "Hubbard's Anthems, Newburyport, 1814," was one of the favorite books of those times.



This collection of tunes, compiled by John Hubbard, was used at all the ordinations, installations and thanksgivings for more than twenty-five years. Hubbard was the author of one of the anthems, and his opinion was the law of this association. Every fashion has its time to flourish and then pass away, still those old tunes, sung and executed as they were, both for sublimity of movement and sweetness of melody, once heard, can never be forgotten. Prof. Hubbard was of a genial disposition, enthusiastic in every enterprise in which he engaged. Perhaps one of his weak points was his excessive fondness for sacred music, on which he spent much time, it may be, at the expense of more solid and scholarly attainments. He died while he was professor, and was buried at Hanover, New Hampshire, highly respected by the college officers and students, and beloved by a large circle of relatives and friends. Dartmouth has given to the world riper scholars and greater men, but not one has gone forth from her venerable halls with a keener sense of truth and duty, or who carried a better heart in his breast than John Hubbard.

ABRAHAM BUTTERFIELD was born in a house which stood near Pepperell line, in 1769. Graduated at Dartmouth College, 1796. This graduate assisted his father on a farm, in the support of a large family, till he was twenty-one years of age, when he commenced fitting for college. He earned most of the money expended for his education, by labor on a farm and district school-teaching. Soon after his graduation he commenced the study of law, teaching at the same time. There is no account, however, of his taking a degree from any law school, or that he





was ever a practical lawyer. He was a successful teacher for a number of years, in Cambridge, and other places in the vicinity of Boston. In 1811, he was a major in the Massachusetts militia, and during the same year a member of the Massachusetts Legislature.

He subsequently moved to Machiasport, Maine, where he engaged in the milling and lumber business. In 1830, he represented Machias in the Maine Legislature. He was a police magistrate, at Machiasport, for a long time, always holding one or more of the offices in the gift of the town. He was greatly interested in the cause of temperance and a zealous advocate of the so called "Maine Liquor Law." He spent the last years of his life, with one of his sons, at Bowdoinham, Maine, where he died, in 1857, aged eighty-eight.

He was a quiet gentleman, his good judgment, his reticence and his perfect honesty, securing for him that good name which is an honor to his memory, his native town, and his *Alma Mater*.

Prominent among this interesting group of collegians, and deservedly so, is DANIEL ADAMS, a grandson of one of the original proprietors of Townsend. Born in 1773, graduated at Dartmouth College, 1797, and died at Keene, New Hampshire, in 1864, aged ninety-one years. His father was one of the few men of this town, at that time, who possessed sufficient pecuniary means to educate a son at college. He received the degree of Doctor of Medicine, at Hanover, New Hampshire, in 1799. He married the only daughter of Dr. Mullikin, of Townsend, and located at Leominster, where he commenced as a practical physician. Leominster, like most large towns, joined in the funeral services in honor of Washington, in



the winter of 1800, and Dr. Adams was chosen to deliver the eulogy, which duty he performed in an impressive and eloquent manner. The town ordered the eulogy to be printed, and served to every legal voter. In 1801, he engaged with Salmon Wilder, in publishing a weekly newspaper at Leominster, called "The Telescope." This publication continued about a year, when he conceived the idea of his "Scholars' Arithmetic," which caused the "Telescope" to be laid aside to give place to the new enterprise. "The Scholars' Arithmetic, Leominster, 1803," was received with much favor, and filled just the place in our district schools for which it was intended by its ingenious author. Pike's Arithmetic, used in the schools at that time, contained the advanced principles in the science, but was wanting in simplicity and adaptation to the minds of those who were able to attend school only a few weeks in the course of the year. Generally the teachers had a copy of Pike's Arithmetic, which was comparatively a costly book, which answered for the whole school. The "Scholars' Arithmetic," a first-class text book, containing all that is necessary for any business man to know of that science, fully equal, if not superior to any book of the kind now in use, and offered at a reasonable price, was received with great interest by all our common schools.

His "Understanding Reader," and a treatise on Geography, were published in 1808. These two books were not so popular as his Arithmetic, although the Understanding Reader was used considerably.

Dr. Adams went from Leominster to Boston, and engaged in teaching, where he remained for a few years, when, finding his health begin to fail, he removed to the airy town of Mont Vernon, New Hampshire, and



resumed the practice of medicine. This locality brought him in frequent contact with the celebrated Dr. Matthias Spaulding, of Amherst, New Hampshire, who scarcely had a peer in his profession. The most friendly relations existed between these men. They were the consulting physicians in that part of the state. Let it be remarked here, that Dr. Adams was eminently an intellectual man. He liked to investigate the cause of things, to lay open their hidden relations and affinities. Such an intellect may be compared to the head-light of a locomotive, that darts its rays far along the track. In 1822, he became a member of the New Hampshire Historical Society, and soon after, a member of the New Hampshire Medical Society, of which, at one time, he was president.

From Mont Vernon he went to Keene, New Hampshire, where he prepared "Adams' New Arithmetic, Keene, 1828." This school book was considered, by good judges, as inferior to the "Scholars' Arithmetic." "The Monitorial Reader," published the last of any of his school books, was very favorably received by school committees and educators. In scholarship, at Dartmouth, he ranked among the first third of his class, and was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. There was a semi-centennial meeting of his class at the commencement at Dartmouth College, in 1847, at which seven of the original thirty were in attendance. Three or four of this number had not seen each other during the fifty years. In a letter written to Rev. David Palmer, of this town, giving an account of the meeting, Dr. Adams regrets that Mr. Palmer was unable to be present. It appears that Phineas White, a member of the class of 1797, died



in 1847, and these seven class-mates, at this, their semi-centennial meeting, prepared and forwarded a letter of condolence to his widow. The letter to Mr. Palmer, describes all the particulars of this meeting, and contains a copy of the letter of condolence, giving the names of the seven signers thereto, all of which is very affecting. The Doctor, at the close of his letter to Mr. Palmer, adds this as a postscript: "After preparing the letter, we united with Brother Cabot, in a very affecting and fervent prayer; when taking each other by the hand for the last time, we parted, crying like babies."

We regret that our limits compel us to take leave of this graduate, whose life-work of ninety-one years was one continuity of good acts, not only in guiding the youthful mind in the acquisition of useful knowledge, in assisting the poor and the destitute, in soothing the dying, but in bequeathing to us, and especially to every one by the name of Adams, an exemplary character, worthy of lasting and affectionate remembrance.

JOSEPH WALKER was born on Bayberry Hill, in 1792, graduated at Bowdoin College, in 1818. Mr. Walker, acquired his education without any pecuniary assistance from any source, obtaining funds by teaching as he went along. In the course of his studies he evinced an enterprise and determination, which gave a color and character to all his professional acts, well worthy of his puritan ancestry. Professor Packard, of Bowdoin, in answer to enquiries, says of him, "He was a good student, and held a good reputation for diligence, and for a sound, discriminating mind. His commencement part was a 'soliloquy,' a part never before or since assigned with





that designation. I supposed at the time it was so assigned on account of his reflective turn. He was, I know, greatly respected as a student and a man, his religious character being clearly decided. He studied theology with Rev. Dr. Payson, of Portland, Maine, and was afterwards settled as a pastor and preacher of the Orthodox Congregational denomination, at Norway, Maine." This synopsis of the character of Mr. Walker, by a gentleman in college with him, whose venerable form still graces the halls of learning and religion, is exceedingly valuable. During the most active part of Mr. Walker's ministry, strong and heated religious controversies were entered into by the clergy. The unitarians had just acquired "a local habitation and a name," and the universalists marshalled their forces with consummate skill and ability under Balfour, Whittemore, Dean, and others. The difference of opinion concerning the method of baptism was another source of disagreement. In all these subjects of controversy, Mr. Walker took an active part. He published a pamphlet, with the title "Glance at Dean's 120 Reasons for being a Universalist, Portland, 1828," and another with the title, "Examination of the New Testament Evidence on Modes of Baptism, Portland, 1830." The "Glance at Dean's 120 Reasons" shows an amount of scholarship, and keen discrimination, which must have convinced even Mr. Dean that "he had met a foeman worthy of his steel." His sermons were ably and logically written, his ideas being expressed often in chaste and elegant diction, but his delivery and manner of address were awkward, and wanting in the graces of oratory. He died and was buried at Paris, Maine, in 1851, aged fifty-nine years.



WILLIAM FARMER was the son of Jonas Farmer, born in the south part of the town, in 1793. Graduated at Harvard University, in 1819. He took his degree from the divinity school at Cambridge, in 1823, in the class with Rev. Ezra Styles Gannett, who lost his life, with others, in the fatal railroad collision, near Revere, in 1871. William Farmer, with six of his brothers, all attended school on Bayberry Hill. These boys, in altitude, were of the *a la* Lincoln type, so much so that, on returning home from a visit to this school, Mr. Palmer remarked to his wife, that during the week forty-two feet of Farmers had been in attendance at this school. While fitting for college, this graduate was at New Ipswich Academy part of the time, and part of the time at Groton Academy. He studied for some time after this with Rev. Eli Smith, of Hollis, New Hampshire, but whether this was with a view of being a minister, without going to college, is unknown. It is quite certain, however, that the strongly marked calvinistic sentiments of Rev. Eli Smith were not in accord with the doctrines imparted at the Harvard divinity school. He taught school two or three years after acquiring his profession. In 1831, he was ordained over the Unitarian church, in Belgrade, Maine, where he remained about six years, when he resigned his pastoral charge. In 1838 and 1839, he supplied a Unitarian pulpit, in Dresden, Maine. He preached at Pomfret, Vermont, for about a year, and was in the same calling at Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, for a year or more. During the latter part of his life, he was an invalid for many years, suffering from pulmonary hemorrhage. His decline was gradual. He exhibited great patience during his illness, not a murmur or complaining word passing his lips. He departed hence, with



Christian resignation, leaving a widow and many friends, in 1862, aged sixty-nine years.

JOHN STEVENS was born on Battery Hill, in 1798. His ancestors came from England and settled in Newburyport, in 1638. He is a son of Solomon Stevens, who was the son of Solomon Stevens, who was the son of John Stevens, of Groton, one of the first proprietors of Mason, New Hampshire, and he was a descendant of John Stevens, one of the first settlers of Andover. In 1815, an uncle of this graduate, who resided at Middlebury, Vermont, being on a visit to the old homestead on Battery Hill, noticed young John, then about seventeen years old, and invited him to go home with him, and attend the Middlebury Academy with his son, a youth of about the same age, who was then fitting for college. This generous offer, so unexpectedly tendered to him was gladly accepted. He fitted in two years, at this academy, and graduated at Middlebury College, in 1821, with the Latin salutatory address, the second honor in a good class of twenty-three members.

For the year 1822, he was the preceptor of the academy, at Montpelier, Vermont. In 1823, he was a member of the junior class, in Andover Theological Seminary. In 1824, he was preceptor of New Ipswich Academy, and previous to 1830, he was for three years, tutor in Middlebury College.

In 1831, he went to Ohio, under engagement to take the editorial chair of a new paper, at Cincinnati, called the "Baptist Weekly Journal of the Mississippi Valley." He was editor of this paper for seven years. From 1838 to 1843, he was Professor of intellectual and moral



philosophy, in Granville College, at Granville, Ohio. From 1843 to 1849, he was district secretary and agent of the "American Baptist Missionary Union," residing again at Cincinnati. During the years 1857 and 1858, he was a teacher, in Fairmount Seminary, near Cincinnati. In 1859, he returned to Granville, as Professor of Greek and Latin languages in Dennison University, formerly Granville College, and so continued till 1868, when a separate Greek chair was established, and he was appointed Professor of Latin and literature. It appears that he favored the baptist denomination even while a student at Andover Theological Seminary, as he joined the first baptist church in Salem, Rev. S. Bolles, D. D., pastor, in 1823. His religious life and labors have been spent among the baptists. He was ordained as an evangelist, in 1844, in connection with his agency and secretaryship in the cause of missions. In 1873, the degree of D. D. was conferred upon him, by the Rochester, New York, University. Professor Stevens has discharged the several duties committed to his trust, in a dignified, faithful and scholarly manner. Probably his influence, in giving character and a high moral position to Dennison University, has been as great as that of any one man. This institution, under the patronage of the baptists, has a pleasant and healthful location, at Granville, Ohio. It is in a community distinguished for intelligence and morality, and maintains a reputation that will compare favorably with some of the older colleges situated in the Eastern States, sending forth a good influence coextensive with the Mississippi valley. And now when we turn to contemplate the character of Professor Stevens, we behold an affectionate husband and father, a warm-hearted friend,





an eminently industrious and accurate classical scholar, a faithful and successful teacher, and a modest christian gentleman. He died at Granville, Ohio, in April, 1877.

JOHN GRAHAM was born on Nissequassick Hill, in 1802, graduated at Amherst College, in 1829, died in 1833, aged thirty-one years. During the year 1816, there was an unusual religious excitement in town, particularly in the North End district. Several young persons related their religious experience, at the meetings held at their school-house, and among those was John Graham, then about fourteen years old. Soon after, he, in company with some twenty others, made a public profession of their faith, and united with the church of which Rev. David Palmer was pastor. From that time he ardently wished to be a gospel minister, all his hopes and plans looking to and aiming at that devoutly wished for consummation. Unlike many collegians, he knew on the start what calling he would pursue on entering active life. He commenced his preparatory studies with Mr. Palmer, but spent more than a year at New Ipswich Academy, before entering at Amherst. Although he industriously applied himself, as much as his health would allow, he did not take high rank in scholarship at college. After his graduation, and while teaching at Concord, he studied theology with Rev. Mr. Southmaid, who was preaching there at that time. He was in attendance at the theological department of Yale College for some time, with the intention of finishing his studies there, but his health failing he was obliged to leave. In 1831, he went to Charleston, South Carolina, where he remained about a year and a half, preaching part of the time, and teaching some. Not finding the



location so beneficial to his health as he expected, he returned to his father's home, and in a few weeks died there, of pulmonary consumption. Like too many others, he never fully realized the high hopes and yearning aspirations of his youth, which urged him on in the acquirement of the important and sacred profession of his choice. His best eulogy is spoken when we assert, that, after adopting the calling to which he aspired with his whole heart, he performed every duty incumbent on him, with marked sincerity and faithfulness, through the remainder of his life, until he arrived at that "inevitable hour" when he crossed the peaceful river, with his eyes triumphantly fixed on the shining gates of the "celestial city."

JOEL GILES was born on Nissequassick Hill, in 1804, fitted for college with Rev. David Palmer, and graduated at Harvard University, in 1829. Edward Giles, the earliest American ancestor of that part of the numerous Giles family to which our graduate belongs, came from Salisbury, in Wiltshire, England, to the colony of Massachusetts Bay, in 1633, and settled in what is now the town of Peabody. Giles is a name familiar to readers of English history. The honors of knighthood have been enjoyed by at least three of that name, and their coat-of-arms has come down from unquestionable antiquity. The subject of this sketch needs no ancestral renown to recommend him to our confidence, and we venture the opinion that he holds the stern virtues of the Pilgrim Fathers, from which he is descended, in much higher regard than all the sprigs of chivalry that ever blossomed on his genealogical tree. From 1831 to 1834, he was tutor, in Harvard





Lord Giles



University. The degree of Bachelor of Laws was conferred on him by the same institution, in 1837. He opened a law office, in Boston, and became distinguished in his profession. He never acquired notoriety as a jury lawyer or advocate, but whenever the Boston merchants wanted to know about any point where their legal interests were in jeopardy, Joel Giles was the man whom they would consult for an opinion, and he would furnish the brain-work to be elaborated in the oratory of an associate. He was appreciated by the entire bar of Suffolk County, for his legal and judicial ability. On the Fourth of July, 1848, he delivered the oration before the municipal authorities of the City of Boston. He has been a member of both branches of the Massachusetts Legislature, for Boston, and in 1853, he was a prominent member of the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention. During the last few years, he has divided the time which he has devoted to business, between the cities of Boston, New York, and Washington, as a patent-office lawyer. Mr. Giles is a bachelor, a gentleman of benevolence, rather conservative in his tastes, and withal an honest man, which is "the noblest work of God."

JOHN GILES, the youngest brother of the last described graduate, was born on Nissequassick Hill, in 1806. He also fitted for college with Rev. David Palmer, who said he was the best scholar that ever fitted for college with him. He required the least assistance and prompting, both while in preparation for, and at the University, of any in his class. The difficult parts and knotty points, in all his lessons, were always overcome and solved before





he entered the recitation room. He possessed a well-balanced, penetrating mind, well adapted to either languages or mathematics, so that he went through his collegiate career in a manner calculated to give him excellent mental discipline. Before graduating at Cambridge, he united with the Congregational Orthodox Church, in Cambridgeport, under the pastoral care of Rev. William A. Stearns, D. D., now president of Amherst College. He was pleasing in his manners, and prepossessing in his person, having an agreeable temper, and a heart "full of the law of kindness." John Giles aimed high. He intended to have been an author. He did publish a book, of much merit in its way, entitled "The Latin Reader for Beginners." He was a successful teacher, at Jamaica Plain, for some time, and he read law in the office of the noted legal firm of Parsons & Stearns, in Boston. Soon after his graduation, he was attacked with a disease of the lungs, which finally caused his death. This incapacitated him for any mental labor during a period of five or six years. He died at the house of his brother, Deacon Daniel Giles, in Townsend, June, 1838, aged thirty-two years.

In addition to what has been said concerning his intellectual strength, we may add that his moral and religious life was everything that a truly good man would wish to review, at that trying hour, when about to leave this earthly existence. His older brothers, Daniel and Joel, were the only members of his kindred, in this town, who survived him. Daniel has since died, but Joel remains, the only one of the name, of Townsend birth, who now, at the age of more than three score and ten, and after the lapse of thirty-nine years, frequently recurs to the



untimely death of his brother, and with a sigh thinks of "what might have been."

CHARLES BROOKS was born on Nissequassick Hill, in 1831. Graduated at Yale College, in 1853, died in 1866, aged thirty-five years. He pursued his preparatory studies with the ministerial office in full view before him. He learned the languages easily, so much so, that he received many compliments from the president and professors, at Yale, where he took a good rank in his class. After his graduation, he commenced the study of divinity, at Yale, but spent the last year of the course at Andover Theological Seminary. In 1858, he was ordained over the church and society, at Byfield, a parish in the old town of Newbury. He married, in 1858, Miss N. L. Adams, of this town.

After remaining at Byfield about seven years, where he was a very acceptable preacher, he received a call from the church at Unionville, Connecticut, which he accepted. He had scarcely commenced the discharge of his duties in his new situation, when in September, 1865, he was attacked with pulmonary consumption, which caused his death, in June, 1866. In person, Rev. Mr. Brooks was medium size, light hair, (almost flaxen,) a good eye, which sparkled in a countenance lighted up with a smile for all who approached him. He never was contentious, either as a student, citizen or clergyman, never intentionally injured the feelings of any one, and never preached politics. Rev. S. H. Tolman, of Wilmington, in an obituary address, said of Mr. Brooks, "He felt the disappointment of so early a departure very



keenly." Said he to Mr. Tolman: "I have all the feelings of a husband and a father, a young man and a minister. I love this good work, and the future in that field whither God in his providence has so recently sent me, opens before me so bright, with such promise of sheaves to be garnered into the heavenly store-house,"—he hesitated a little and then said, "*but it is all right*—I have more confidence in God's wisdom than my own. Thy will, not mine, be done." Of his last days, Mr. Tolman says: "He manifested just that sweet confidence in God, just that calm and intelligent resting on the doctrines of the gospel, which constituted a most fitting end to all that he had been, and preached and done." Nothing can be added to these closing words of the obituary, except, perhaps it may be remarked in the words of another, that "God buries his workman, but still carries on the work."

WARREN BROOKS, a brother of Charles Brooks, (just described,) was born in 1829. He entered Yale College, in 1851, and remained there till his brother's graduation, in 1853, when he left Yale, and joined the junior class at Harvard University, where he graduated, in 1855. In scholarship, he ranked in the first fourth of his class, which was large, and contained some excellent scholars. Rev. Phillips Brooks, the popular Boston preacher, was one of his classmates and friends. In September, 1855, he entered Andover Theological Seminary, and while a member of that institution, in 1857, he died of consumption, induced by too close application to his studies, aged twenty-eight years. Rather taciturn



than loquacious, he possessed great modesty and a sensitive reticacy of character, which won for him the respectful consideration of all with whom he came in contact. He devoted no time to idleness. From boyhood, either his hands, his brains, or both were incessantly at work. While pursuing his studies, he earned most of his expenses by teaching in our common schools, in which he had complete success. He had that agreeableness and dignity of address, which added embellishment both to culture and refinement. For his piety and purity of character, as well as his untiring industry both as student and teacher, he has left an example worthy of imitation.

MARK DAVIS was born in 1834, within a short distance of the birthplace of the two gentlemen last described. They were school-mates. Mr. Davis fitted for college partly in this town, besides spending more than a year at New Ipswich Academy. Townsend had an academy at that time. The natural brain powers of this graduate were superior, which, together with his prepossessing personal appearance, made him a general favorite in circles where wit and playful repartee went gayly round. He was "Young America" in his tastes and habits, and was decidedly popular with his professional and political associates. Professor E. D. Sanborn, of the chair of oratory and belles-lettres, in Dartmouth College, where Mr. Davis graduated, in 1856, in answer to a letter of inquiry, furnishes the following sentence: "Mr. Davis was a man of good abilities, and capable of high attainments, but unfortunately declined in scholarship towards the close of his college course." He received the degree of Bachelor





of Laws, at Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1858. Soon after, he commenced the practice of law, in Boston, where he acquired a respectable standing in his profession. Having a good knowledge of human nature and a quickness of apprehension, excelled by none, he was well adapted to the law business. He was rather a prominent member of the republican party, and during his last illness took great interest in the news from the seat of war, in which treason was pitted against loyalty, freedom against slavery, and he had the pleasure of living long enough to hear the ringing of the bells and the roaring of the cannon, which announced that the rebellion was crushed—that the flag of many stars was the revered emblem of an unbroken and restored nationality. After being in business about three years he was taken with consumption. He resorted to every means known to science to regain his health. He went to New Orleans, hoping that a change of climate might be in his favor, from whence he returned to the old homestead, then his brother's house, located in full view of the school-house where he and his comrades vied for the head of the class, where after much suffering he died, in 1865, aged thirty-one years.

Sweet is home; "and dear the school-boy spot  
We ne'er forget though there we are forgot."

CHARLES T. HAYNES was born on Nissequassick Hill, in 1835. He graduated at Appleton Academy, New Ipswich, New Hampshire, in 1858; and graduated at Amherst College, in 1862. He studied theology, at Andover, during 1863 and 1864, and was then



compelled to abandon his purpose of becoming a minister, on account of sickness. He resided in Townsend, till 1868, when, finding his health sufficiently established, he embraced the profession of teacher. He was principal of the high school, at Edgartown, from 1868 to 1870. He was teacher of mathematics in Highland Military Academy, at Worcester, part of the year 1870, which place he left to take charge of the high school, in Webster, where he remained till April, 1872. He then returned to Worcester, and from that time to the present, he has been principal of the Lamartine School, in that city, where he ranks high as an educator. He married Sybel Wallace, of this town, in 1870. A member of his class in college, thus writes of him: "While faithful in everything, he never took high rank as a scholar, standing about midway in a large class, containing an unusual number of good scholars. He particularly excelled in mathematics, while the languages were difficult for him. As a writer, he stood high, and was chosen by the class their prophet. In this capacity he did not in the least disappoint their expectations, for his prophecy was one of the wittiest, brightest, and most kindly, ever delivered in Amherst." Mr. Haynes, through the year previous to leaving town, served on the school committee, in a manner both profitable to the schools and acceptable to his colleagues. As a teacher, he excels in seeing intuitively that upon which the pupil blunders, and then by a word or two, helps the scholar to help himself. Above all these attainments, which have been enumerated, either by his classmate or the writer, stands out in bold relief an influential, unblemished and exemplary character.



compared with which, scholarship, rank or fame are as nothing.

Long may he live to adorn that profession which furnishes to our youth that full mental equipment, which will enable them, in after years, to give battle against every sin and wrong, with which they will be surrounded.

JOHN M. PROCTOR, son of Deacon John Proctor, was born in the east part of the town, in 1839, and graduated at Dartmouth College, in 1863. He fitted for college, at Lawrence Academy, Groton, from whence, for his strict attention to his own business, he carried away the best wishes of his classmates, and the blessings of his teachers. At college he found the benefit of his diligence at Groton, for he took a good rank in his class, through the entire college course. He was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. In 1862, during the war excitement, a member of his class, from Wakefield, New Hampshire, on offering his services to his country, was appointed adjutant of the Ninth New Hampshire Regiment. Before leaving the state, however, he was taken sick and died; whereupon, by appointment of his class, Mr. Proctor pronounced an appropriate eulogy, on the life and character of this volunteer, before the college faculty and students. The eulogy, printed at Hanover, New Hampshire, by order of the students, is an honor to its author. For the kindly and feeling words spoken of his friend; for its fitness to the occasion; for its manliness and patriotism, it was happily received by his auditors, and must have been read with deep interest by the bereaved relatives of the deceased. Prof. John Carroll Proctor, of the Greek



chair in Dartmouth, thus writes: "John M. Proctor was among the best scholars in his class, quiet, but very decided in his opinions, a good writer and speaker." He might have added, with equal justice, that he was a good thinker and debater. He spent some time studying law, and undoubtedly he intended to be a lawyer. In 1865, he was appointed principal of the "Moravian Institute," an advanced school, charmingly situated near Geneva Lake, in the state of New York. At the close of the first term of the second year of his engagement, in 1866, on account of ill health, he resigned his position and returned to his father's house, where, after a confinement to his room, of about two months, he died of pneumonia, aged twenty-six years.

No better close to the sketch of this graduate can be made, than his own language, applied to the young volunteer, which was as follows: "We turn with pleasure on an occasion like this, from the contemplation of mere intellectual qualities, to recall those richer endowments of the heart and affections, so eminently characteristic of our deceased classmate. The former may, indeed, be forgotten; but the latter will never perish from our remembrance. Intellectual ability of acknowledged merit we may recognize in the streets, and in the highways of life; but the genial companion and true friend is rare indeed. When we consider the talent of our departed brother, we may confess to a feeling of pride—he was our classmate and a man of ability, but when we reflect upon his social virtues, his unselfish disposition, his sympathetic nature and manly character, we are dissolved in tears."





RANDALL SPAULDING was born near Townsend Harbor, in 1845. Graduated at Yale College, in 1870, with the rank of fourteenth, in a class of one hundred and twenty students. Soon after his graduation, he received the appointment of head master of the high school, at Rockville, Connecticut, where he remained about three years, when, wishing for a broader culture, and desirous of securing the advantages of travel, he resigned his position, in September, 1873, went to Europe, and passed a year in Germany, in finishing his studies. From his boyhood, he has had the profession of teacher in view. He is at present, principal of the high school, at Montclair, New Jersey, fifteen miles from New York City, by the way of Jersey City Ferry, and Morris & Essex Railroad, and one of the most aristocratic suburban settlements. The good people of Montclair, New Jersey, claim that they are in possession of the most elegant private residences, the most ample school buildings, and in the person of Mr. Spaulding, the best teacher in the state. He is now thirty-two years old, well adapted to his calling, enterprising, having self-reliance without egotism, and genuine scholarship without ostentation. He married Florence A. Chapman.

ELIEL S. BALL was born at Townsend Centre, in 1848. Graduated at Lawrence Academy, in 1869, and at Dartmouth College, in 1874. This gentleman, since his graduation, has been a teacher at Lawrence Academy. Through both his academic and collegiate course, he was highly respected as a student and a gentleman. He has that executive ability, self-control, and ready command of





*E. S. Ball.*



his learning, which eminently fit him for the profession upon which he has entered. At college, in scholarship, he ranked in the first third of his class. The commencement part assigned him was an English oration, entitled "The conflict of creeds with popular education." In his record, thus far, from his excellent acquirements and his strict conformity to every filial and moral duty, his friends may reasonably expect that pure motives and dignified actions "will ever keep the Ball in motion." He is, at present (1878), the principal of this Lawrence Academy, and is well qualified to fill the chair, once occupied by William M. Richardson, Caleb Butler, Asa F. Lawrence, and others, who ranked high among educators. On the fourth day of August, 1875, he married Ella F. Sawin, of Townsend.

WAYLAND SPAULDING was born September 26, 1850. Graduated at Williston Seminary, Easthampton, in 1870, and at Yale College, in 1874. His rank at Yale, in a class of one hundred and eighteen, was the tenth, leaving one hundred and eight students who were not his peers. His class picture indicates a large amount of vital force, a clearness of perception, a skill in the use of languages, and a thorough mental discipline, all of which are indispensable to a good public speaker. Before he had seen his twenty-fourth birthday he was appointed principal of the high school at Rockville, Connecticut, where his brother taught just after his graduation. There are about six hundred scholars in this school. During the three years which have passed since he was at the head of this institution, he has given entire satisfaction to the people of



the enterprising town of Rockville. He married, December 31, 1874, Mary A. Peck.

Six of the seventeen graduates from this town, came from three families: Two brothers from each, Joel and John Giles, Warren and Charles Brooks, and Randall and Wayland Spaulding.





## CHAPTER XIII.

### *PROMINENT INDIVIDUALS.*

Samuel Stone—Ralph Warren—James N. Tucker—James Hosley—Walter Hastings—John Spaulding—Levi Wallace—Stillman Haynes—The Warrens.

The most prominent traders in Townsend, whose names have not previously appeared in this work, are the following: Charles Osgood, and William P. Taylor, both of whom have recently retired partially from business, at the central village; Edmund A. Shattuck, at West Townsend; and Charles Emery, at Townsend Harbor. These gentlemen are all well known to the present generation. Most of them have done a successful business in this town for the last quarter of a century.

From 1830, and onward for about five years, Giles & Jewett (Daniel Giles and Solomon Jewett,) were copartners in trade at the brick store in Townsend Centre. Mr. Jewett died in the prime of life. He was an enterprising, go-ahead man. On the death of Mr. Jewett, Mr. Giles received Samuel Adams as a partner, who remained only a short time in trade with him. When Mr. Samuel Adams retired, Daniel Adams associated himself with Mr. Giles, in business, under the name and style of Giles & Adams. About 1847, Mr. Giles disposed of his interest



in the business, to Mr. Adams, and he continued the business alone, till about 1849, when William P. Taylor joined him in partnership.

SAMUEL STONE was one of the most successful traders in Townsend, known to the writer. He was the son of Lieut. Samuel Stone, born August 17, 1779. After acquiring all the education afforded by the common school, he went into a store in Charlestown, as a clerk, remaining there long enough to learn the routine of business, and forming a mercantile acquaintance so that he had acquired a sum of money, which, added to his credit, he considered sufficient to commence business for himself. He returned to Townsend and opened a store in a small wooden building, which stood on the corner at the south side of the common, near where the post-office now is. His business increased, and he went on accumulating property. On the twenty-first day of March, 1809, he married Lucy Wheeler, of Mason, New Hampshire. Finding the building, in which he commenced business, too small, he bought the real estate where it stood, and erected the present brick store at that location. The ample and tasteful brick dwelling-house, now standing on the opposite corner, was also built by Mr. Stone, for his own home. He was extensively known and patronized in his business, so that, considering the time in which he lived, he acquired a large property. He became a member of the orthodox church about 1816, and contributed liberally to the support of that institution, besides subscribing five hundred dollars towards the erection of the brick church edifice. Being considerably corpulent, from extra exertion in assisting his workmen in the hay-field, he became so surfeited and



heated that he died, rather suddenly, on the twenty-ninth day of August, 1830. Having no children, the question with him was, how to dispose of his property, when he found he was near the end of his earthly pilgrimage. His will, drawn by Dea. Joel Adams, one of his particular friends, was so peculiar, that a short notice of it in this place, may be acceptable to the reader.

Before the Supreme Judicial Court, in a friendly way, by an agreement of facts, it appeared, that Samuel Stone, on August 7, 1830, being seized of certain demanded premises, made his will, which was duly proved, September 28, 1830, and in which, after devising certain real and personal property to his wife, he made the following devise:—

"I give and bequeath all the residue of my estate, both real and personal, of whatever name or nature soever, or wherever said property may be found, to the cause of Christ, for the benefit and promotion of true evangelical piety and religion. And I do order and direct my executor hereafter named and appointed, to collect all the above last specified property, as soon as can be done consistently without sacrificing too much by forcing the sale thereof in an improper manner, not however to exceed the term of five years, and pay over the same unto Rev. John Todd, of Groton, Rev. James C. How, of Pepperell, Rev. Phillips Payson, of Leominster, and Rev. Rufus Putnam, of Fitchburg, (reserving a reasonable sum to compensate him for his trouble,) placing full confidence in their piety, judgment and integrity, immediately to be by them sacredly appropriated to the cause of religion as above stated, to be distributed in such divisions and to such societies and religious charitable purposes, as they may think fit and proper."



It appeared that the testator appointed Joel Adams, his executor; that Mr. Adams, having accepted the trust, entered upon the demanded premises, and on November 17, 1831, conveyed them to the demandant; and that the tenant claimed, as one of the five heirs-at-law of the testator.

It further appeared that the property of the testator amounted to about the sum of \$21,000; that the personal estate, exclusive of that bequeathed to his wife, amounted to \$10,000; and that the real estate, which would pass by the residuary clause, was of the value of between \$4,000 and \$5,000.

John P. Robinson appeared and argued the case for the tenant (John Emery), and George F. Farley for the demandant (Eliab Going). The vagueness and uncertainty, in regard to the manner in which the donation was to be disposed of, was urged by the counsel opposed to the will. He argued that, "Upon the death of the testator, the real estate descended to the heirs; for it is not given to the executor, nor to Messrs. Todd and others, either for their own use, or in trust, but 'to the cause of Christ.'" And again, "The absence of a court of chancery in this Commonwealth, to compel the execution of trusts for such vague and indefinite purposes, is a reason why such donations as have been held valid by the court of chancery in England, should not be held valid here."

Chief Justice Shaw delivered the opinion of the court, of which the following is the closing part:—

"In all the cases of charitable uses, or nearly all, the persons ultimately to be benefitted by the donation are uncertain. The heathen of foreign lands, in case of Bartlett vs. King, were the ultimate objects of the donor's bounty;





but of what foreign country, when, how, and to what amount, with all the particular details, were left uncertain, in all other respects than this, that the testator reposed confidence in the trustees, a confidence earned by their known character for fidelity and judgment, that they would appropriate the money in such manner as to accomplish his intention. This was held sufficient to obviate the objection of vagueness and uncertainty.

"We are of opinion that the present case falls within the same principle; the donees are particularly designated, the trust is clear, the general objects sufficiently indicated to bind the consciences of the trustees, and to render them liable in equity to account for the execution of this trust, by a suit to be instituted in the name of the attorney-general, representing the public; and that these objects are sufficiently certain and definite to be carried into effect, according to the established principles of law and equity, governing donations to charitable uses.

*Tenant defaulted."*

The property of this testator was disbursed, in part, by these four ministers, as follows: To different missionary objects, \$5,000; Gilmanton Academy, \$1,000; Marietta College, \$1,000; Wabash College, \$1,100; East Windsor Theological Seminary, \$2,000; Amherst College, \$1,000. There were several other gifts, in small sums, to different churches and societies. No further record or account of the manner in which the balance of the property was expended is to be found. The executor put the money derived from the sale of the property into the hands of these men. No executor's account is to be found at the Probate Office, and the information in regard to the manner in which the property was distributed is



derived from Miss Caroline Wright, the adopted daughter of the testator. Miss Wright is a lady of excellent mind and good memory.

RALPH WARREN, son of Aaron Warren, Esq., was born in 1800, at West Townsend, in a cottage house which stood where the present family residence is located. Being an only son, his boyhood was guided by a kind and generous father, yet a strict disciplinarian, and a good mother, with puritanical religious principles. He acquired his education at the common school, together with the advantage of a limited attendance at Lawrence Academy. Leaving school he took the position of clerk in his father's store, discharging its duties with so much care and ability, that the details of the business were left principally to his supervision, while his father was away on business or at the consecutive sessions of the General Court. In May, 1823, he married Betsey Sherwin, an amiable woman, who will long be remembered with tender regard by all who knew her. About that time he moved to Boston, and went into business, where he remained about two years, when he returned to West Townsend, and associated himself in business with his father, in the firm of Aaron Warren & Son. This firm continued several years in business. On the retirement of his father, he formed a copartnership with Daniel Bolls, his brother-in-law, but this firm was soon dissolved; and he continued the business without any partner for several years.

About the time he was most successful in trade, the traffic in spirituous liquors was the most profitable part of the business of a country store-keeper. The sale of liquors was as common then as the sale of flour at the





Ralph L. Warner.



present time. When the Washingtonian temperance movement appeared he abandoned the sale of ardent spirits, and solicited other traders to follow his example, braving the obloquy of public opinion. He interested himself in the improvements going forward in his native village, was one of the patrons of the building of the Baptist meeting-house, and Female Seminary, was a trustee and treasurer of the seminary for a number of years. He solicited subscriptions to the stock of the Peterborough & Shirley Railroad; and was deeply interested in the success of that enterprise. About thirty years previous to his death, he gave up business in Townsend and went into trade in Boston, keeping his residence in Townsend; and for twenty years his daily presence on the morning and evening trains of cars was remarked. He was a man "diligent in business," kind-hearted, temperate, and generous, besides being strongly attached to his family, in the presence of which, he passed his happiest hours. He gave liberally towards the support of the baptist denomination and was a constant attendant on its services; and, although he never united with the church, his current conversation and blameless life comported with the teachings of the Great Master. He died in 1873, leaving one daughter and four sons.

JAMES N. TUCKER, Esq., was born in Brookline, New Hampshire, May 20, 1811. Although his advantages for learning were limited to the common school, he acquired a very good education. His mother, noticing his fancy for trading while he was a boy, predicted that he would sometime be a rich man. All his thoughts and tastes in boyhood looked forward to a mercantile life. He





married Rosella Jewett, on the twenty-fifth day of December, 1835. In the fall of 1836, he opened a store at West Townsend, and continued there, in trade, about three years. At that time, his cash capital was rather limited, but his credit was good, and he withstood the financial crash of 1837 and 1838. During the time he was at West Townsend, he did a profitable business. In 1839, he moved to Brookline, New Hampshire, his native town, where he built a very convenient store, and commenced the coopering business, employing from forty to fifty men, and paying them, as much as he could, in goods from his store. This was also a success to him. He was in trade at Brookline, about four years, when he sold out his business and moved to East Pepperell, where he was in trade only a short time, when he returned to Brookline, New Hampshire, and retired from business. He moved to West Townsend, in 1853, and has remained here since that time, except a temporary residence in Boston, during 1876 and 1877. While at Brookline, he was postmaster under two different administrations, and he represented that town in the New Hampshire Legislature, during the years 1851 and 1852. He has invariably acted with the republican party.

In 1854, when the Townsend Bank went into operation, he was chosen one of the directors, which office he has held ever since. He was a notary public several years, and one of the selectmen and assessors of Townsend, in 1864. For more than twenty-five years, he did nearly all the conveyancing and business required of a justice of the peace, at West Townsend. In 1864, in company with Walter Fessenden, he went to Europe, and visited the most important cities of England, Holland,





James N. Tucker



Germany, Switzerland, France, and Scotland. On the twenty-fourth of June, 1875, he married, for a second wife, Mrs. Martha A. Coburn.

**JAMES HOSLEY.** The most prominent and influential among "the old heads" during the revolutionary war, and the best balanced man, in all respects, was James Hosley, who was born in this town, in 1734. The antecedents of his father are unknown to the writer, but the fact that he had a large family, and that all of its members were quite respectable, goes to show that he paid special attention to their moral and intellectual as well as their religious training. His father's name was James Hosley. There is nothing in the town records about schools, till young Hosley was more than twelve years old, so that probably he was thoroughly taught at his home fireside, by his parents, in orthography, reading, writing and arithmetic, to reverence the Deity, and to honor the king.

On his arrival at manhood, he held all the offices in the gift of his fellow-citizens, although he was never a demagogue or office seeker. The church recognized his amiable and worthy character, by electing him deacon. In 1766, he was first chosen to serve on the board of selectmen, consisting of five members, all capable and enterprising men. From 1770 to 1781, he was either moderator, town clerk, one of the selectmen, or on a war committee, every year. In 1775, he was moderator at the annual town meeting, town clerk, chairman of the selectmen, and captain of the alarm list or minute-men. In 1776, when Brigadier-General Oliver Prescott reorganized the Middlesex county militia, the officers for this town



were: James Hosley, captain; Peter Butterfield, first lieutenant; Benjamin Ball, second lieutenant.

In September, 1777, the General Court passed a resolve calling for volunteers to go to the assistance of General Gates, who was confronting Burgoyne, at Saratoga. This call received an enthusiastic response from the men of old Middlesex county. Seventy men, forming one company, belonging to Pepperell, Townsend and Ashby, were soon in readiness to march. On assembling for the choice of officers, James Hosley was unanimously chosen captain. By reference to the revolutionary rolls, copied in this work, it will be seen that Col. William Prescott, and other military men of ability and notoriety, were in Captain Hosley's company. The estimation in which he was held as a military man, can be better understood from this position, tendered to him so unexpectedly, than in any other way. Prescott and Wood, or Major Stone, would never have been subordinate to any man unless he honored the office to which he had been elevated.

He was chosen representative to the General Court, in 1787, but he declined the office, and Daniel Adams was chosen to fill that position. He was a modest man, never dictatorial, courteous and obliging in his intercourse with his townsmen and neighbors. There is no record of his death to be found, either in any well-read old family bible or on any tombstone. Time has swept into the abyss of forgetfulness, those manly forms and brave hearts, which dared to stand up against great odds and assert their freedom, but let the sons of Townsend, in all coming time, with fervent gratitude, remember James Hosley and his compatriots.







*Natter Hastings*



WALTER HASTINGS, son of Col. Walter Hastings, was born at Townsend Harbor, December 9, 1814. He was only six years old at the time of his father's death. He was so promising a lad, that he was fitted for college by a private tutor; but he decided not to enter college, preferring a life devoted to mercantile pursuits.

Through the influence of Hon. Amos Lawrence, he obtained a situation in the long-established house of Whitney & Haskell, where he remained till, or about the time he arrived at majority, enjoying the confidence of the firm and its numerous patrons.

Upon starting for himself, he was a partner in the firm of Spaulding, Rice & Hastings, in the dry goods business. In buying the goods for this house, he acquired an extensive acquaintance, which was much to his pecuniary advantage. He has held many positions of trust, which only a clear-headed, honest man, could fill.

He was treasurer of the Suffolk Manufacturing Company, the Tremont Mills, and the Merrimack Woollen Mills, each at Lowell—of all, at the same time. These corporations employed between three and four thousand operatives, the monthly pay-roll of which amounted to about one hundred and twenty thousand dollars. For a number of years, he was treasurer of the York Manufacturing Company, Saco, Maine. Mr. Hastings has been a director in the Eliot Bank, from its formation, 1851, to the present time; and is also one of the directors in quite a number of manufacturing, fire and marine insurance companies. He is punctual to an appointment, and attends to all these interests with fidelity. By judicious investments, he has accumulated a large fortune, and he now ranks among the princely merchants of Boston, where he resides.



The career of this gentleman exemplifies to our youth, the importance of an early and decided choice of a pursuit, in which to engage, when the dawn of manhood shall sound the reveille for the battle with the world.

HON. JOHN SPAULDING, son of Dea. John Spaulding, was born on Nissequassick Hill, in 1817. For three years he was in attendance at Phillips Academy, Andover, where he fitted for college. In 1842, he entered Yale College, with the freshman class, and remained at that institution until sometime during the senior year, when on account of ill health he left college. Not regaining his health sufficiently to return and graduate with his class, his *Alma Mater*, without being solicited by any one, sometime afterward conferred upon him the degree of A. M., with all the rights and privileges of an *Alumnus*. Like many other country boys, he had to depend largely upon his own exertions, to support himself and gain a liberal education. Before the present days of numerous college scholarships, very materially aiding the impecunious student to fight the financial wolf from his door, young men of small means were obliged to work through the vacations, teaching school, and in other pursuits, to find the means to pay college fees and the other expenses of obtaining an education.

Mr. Spaulding entered the Law School, at Harvard University, and pursued the course of study in that school, taking the degree of LL. B., in 1850. Subsequently he pursued his studies in the office of George F. Farley, a prominent lawyer at Groton Centre. In 1851, he was admitted to the bar, and opened an office at Groton Centre, where he remained in practice only a short time, choosing





*John Spaulding*





Groton Junction for a permanent place of business, where he has since had his office and residence, having also an office in Boston.

In 1872, he was appointed second special justice of the First District Court of Northern Middlesex, and since his induction into that office, he has held a seat on the bench in this court.

Judge Spaulding is neither a prominent politician, or an office seeker, his judgeship being tendered to him without his solicitation, either directly or indirectly. In exercising his right as a citizen he is identified with the republican party, while his religious associations, like most of the numerous Spaulding family, are with the orthodox congregationalists. As a lawyer, he is courteous to opposing counsel, and witnesses of the party opposed to him invariably leave the stand without feeling insulted. He has made the legal profession a pecuniary success, which, considering the large number of learned and eminent members of the Middlesex bar, with whom he has had to compete, could never have been done without good discipline and a large amount of brain power. In 1862, he married Charlotte A., daughter of Alpheus Bigelow, Esq., of Weston. They have no children.

HON. LEVI WALLACE was born, at or near the southeast corner of what was "Hathorn's farm," in Townsend, in 1833. While at the district school he was noted as a good scholar. For nearly three years he attended the Normal School, at Reeds Ferry, a village in the town of Merrimack, New Hampshire. Professor William Russell was then at the head of this institution. He passed the years 1857 and 1858 at Appleton Academy, New Ipswich,



New Hampshire, during which time he fitted for college. He was a teacher in the Normal School, at Reeds Ferry, for about a year. In 1859, he commenced reading law, in the office of Hon. John Spaulding, at Ayer, and continued in that study till 1862, when he was admitted to the bar, and commenced the practice of law, at Pepperell. In 1868, he was a member of the house of representatives in the Massachusetts Legislature, for the towns of Groton and Pepperell. In 1872, he was elected a member of the Massachusetts Senate, for the Fifth Middlesex District; and was re-elected to the same office in 1873. On the fifteenth day of August, 1873, he was appointed special justice of the First District Court of Northern Middlesex, and in February, 1874, he was appointed standing justice of the same court.

The mother of Judge Wallace was a Spaulding. There have been frequent instances of intermarriage between these families in Townsend. He resides at Ayer, the location of the First District Court of Northern Middlesex. As a counsellor, he is deliberate and circumspect; as a justice, he is decided and self-reliant; as a man, he is of fine personal appearance and good address. In 1863, he married Hannah F. Blaney.

STILLMAN HAYNES, ESQ., the son of Samuel and Eliza (Spaulding) Haynes, was born on Nissequassick Hill, April 17, 1833. After receiving the usual training of the common and select schools of his native town, he was in attendance at Leicester Academy, and the Normal School, at Lancaster. In the last named institution, he was so fortunate as to receive rhetorical and elocutionary instruction from that master of these arts, Prof. William





Levi Wallace



Russell, and instruction in the natural sciences, from Prof. Sanborn Tenney. He was for some time, at New Ipswich Academy, an associate teacher, and student with Elihu T. Quimby, who is at present Professor of mathematics and civil engineering, at Dartmouth College. He graduated at Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, New Hampshire, in 1859, ranking well both in character and scholarship. He excelled particularly in mathematics. During the years of preparatory study, he was successfully employed in teaching advanced village schools, at several places. As the income derived from teaching was sometimes inadequate to meet the expenses of his education, he resorted to manual labor to obtain funds to enable him to acquire a thorough education in ancient and modern languages, higher mathematics, engineering and literature. In 1859, he entered the law office of Bonney & Marshall, at Lowell, as a law student, and was admitted to the Middlesex bar, in 1861. He commenced practice at Ashburnham, in 1862, but returned to Townsend, in 1863, and opened a law office. He continued the practice of law in Townsend, till 1868, when he removed to Fitchburg, and continued in that profession. While he was at Townsend, he was a member of the board of selectmen and served several years on the school committee. Since his removal to Fitchburg he has devoted himself exclusively to the practice of law, and by his thorough and patient examination of matters entrusted to him, combined with strict fidelity to his clients, he has attained a good standing and an honorable rank in his profession. He also enjoys the confidence of the citizens of his native town, more especially in matters pertaining to wills and





trusts, and he is held by them in high estimation for his integrity and legal ability. Mr. Haynes is the youngest, of the five sons of Townsend, who have chosen law for a profession. These men were all born on Nissequassick Hill, and in the same neighborhood. They are all among the living, except Mark Davis, and the three, whose features are lithographed and appear in this chapter, sustain very friendly relations to each other. Mr. Haynes married Hattie M. Kimball, of Temple, New Hampshire, October 8, 1863.

The ancestors of the WARRENS, of Townsend, came over from England, in early colonial times. The direct descent of this family is traceable to Ephraim Warren (born at Chelmsford, in 1731), who came to this town from Chelmsford about 1760. His father's name was Ephraim, and he was a brother of Thomas Warren, who was a captain in the continental army, and also represented Townsend in the General Court, and served on the board of selectmen for a number of years. The Ephraim, who settled here, married Mary Parker, sister of Lieutenant-Colonel Moses Parker, of the "27th Regiment of foot in the revolutionary war," and he lived on the Shirley road, about a mile southeast from the Harbor. He is represented, by tradition, as a man some below medium stature, of the Zaccheus-Napoleon type. He was the man who left his plow in the furrow, and started immediately, on horseback, when the alarm was given to the minute-men, on the 19th of April, 1775, mentioned in another part of this work. He died in 1812.





*Stillman Hayes*



MOSES WARREN, the oldest son of this patriot, born in 1755, was one of the most influential men, during his time, in this town or vicinity. He was an enterprising business man, trading in neat stock, lumber and land. He bought the place where the hotel now stands, at West Townsend, about 1793, of Israel Hobart. Only the west half of this building was made at that time, the east half being put on soon after the commencement of the present century. This hotel, in Mr. Warren's time, was extensively patronized by travellers and market men.

In 1799, when the third New Hampshire turnpike, leading from Townsend to Walpole, New Hampshire, was being made, with much foresight and shrewdness, he purchased a large tract of land at its terminus in this town, and erected the hotel, now standing on the west side of the river, at the centre of the town, intending to secure the custom of travellers at one or the other of the taverns, which he kept for a long time. He was a popular landlord, extensively known and respected. His tavern, at the Centre, was opened just before the ordination of Rev. Mr. Palmer, in 1800. On that festive occasion, he set tables in every room in his house, to which free access was given to every person who desired to enjoy his hospitality. In another part of this book, his name appears as a contractor for moving, setting up and finishing the old meeting-house, on the common.

He married (1776,) Martha Reed, of Townsend. They had five sons and five daughters. Seven of these lived to the age of more than three score years and ten. The oldest (Hannah,) lived to the age of eighty-two years, and the youngest (Martha, married Aaron Keyes.) is still alive at the age of nearly eighty years.



LEVI WARREN, the sixth child of this family, the picture of whom graces this volume, was born in 1788. He inherited the nervous, active enterprise of his father, who taught him that self-reliance which guided his course through life. Like his father, he also was not afraid of work. Before he was twenty years of age, being "master of his time," he went to Boston, and by his industry and prudence, in a short time, he earned and saved money enough, so that he owned teams, and hired men himself: he prosecuted the teaming business, for a time, in a profitable manner.

In 1813, during the war with England, while British cruisers were hovering on our coast ready to prey on our commerce, the government put him in charge of his own teams, and those of other parties, to convey boots and shoes, and other goods, needed in the south, to Charleston, South Carolina, and to return loaded with cotton, and other products of that section, needed in New England.

Subsequently, Mr. Warren was the proprietor of a wood wharf, in Boston, which was a source of wealth to him. Soon after the death of his father (1815), he bought different tracts of land, of his brothers, and from other parties, which, added to what he owned before, and what he inherited as his share of the estate of his father, made him the owner of more acres than most any man in town. A large part of the land in and around West Townsend was owned by the Warrens, of whom Levi was the largest proprietor.

He was the most public spirited man, of his time, in Townsend. When the baptists decided to have a meeting-house, some of them wanted it located about half-way on







*Levi Warren*



the road from the west village to the Centre. . By the advice of Levi Warren this building was placed where it now stands, and, as has been heretofore stated he gave the land for the site of this edifice, and more than one-third of the money expended in its erection. In 1818, the hotel and two or three small dwellings, besides Mr. Jonathan Richardson's house, constituted most of the dwelling-houses in what is now the postal centre of West Townsend. This village is largely indebted to the Warrens, of two or three generations, and particularly to Levi, for its present cheerful appearance. Mr. Warren returned from Boston, and made West Townsend his place of residence, in 1837. The baptist church and the young ladies' seminary received his special attention, to the support of both of which he gave his money without stint or urging. In addition to his many acts of beneficence, it must be recorded that, in 1838, he gave the land for the cemetery, at West Townsend, for which the town returned to him a unanimous vote of thanks.

In other parts of this book, his name appears several times as a town officer, a military man, a representative to the General Court, and a benefactor to the institutions at West Townsend. In 1848, he moved to Newton, where he resided till his death, which occurred in 1864, when his remains were accompanied to Townsend for interment; and he now reposes within easy distance from the hum of industry, and the joyous ringing of the church bells of the village, he founded and loved so faithfully.



## CHAPTER XIV.

### *MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS.*

Town Library and its Origin—Fire Department—Odd Fellows—Townsend National Bank—The Ladies' Benevolent Society of the Orthodox Congregational Church—Townsend Cornet Band—Post-Offices and Postmasters.

In 1858, a book agent canvassed this town for the sale of a set of books, to make up an agricultural library, obtaining the names of some more than one hundred subscribers, who paid three dollars each, and became mutually interested in the enterprise. A farmers' club was talked about but never organized. A committee was chosen to select the books from a long catalogue. Most of the volumes selected were well worthy of the attention of the farmer, but, a part of them, like Peter Pindar's razors, "were made to sell." The books were read considerably, for a year or two, when it began to be discussed how to have more books and a larger library. In the winter of 1860, a levee was given at the town hall, expressly in the interest of the library, at which some over a hundred dollars were made after paying all expenses. During the next ten years, two or three gatherings of this kind were held, the object of which was to raise money with which to buy books for the library. Each person.



having the benefit of this library, was taxed fifty cents a year, to help pay for a place to keep it in and secure the services of a librarian. The number of readers increased; and at two or three times, when books were to be bought, a good degree of judgment was exercised in selecting standard literature, from the best authors.

In 1873, the shareholders and patrons of the library had an article inserted in the town warrant, to see if the town would take it off their hands, and make it a free library. The town voted to grant annually one hundred dollars for the support of the library; and a committee has been chosen, each year, to expend the money. This money has all been expended for books, the running expenses having been paid the same as before, that is, by every reader paying fifty cents per annum. The influence of this institution has been excellent, in creating and fostering a taste and talent for reading and observation, and in giving to our youth pleasant thoughts and profitable culture. It contains at present more than one thousand volumes of history, poetry and belles-lettres.

Soon after the conflagration of the steam mill, owned by Walter Fessenden & Son, in August, 1874, a town meeting was called, to learn the opinion of the voters of the town in regard to the propriety of purchasing engines and appliances to extinguish fires. The voters turned out *en masse* to that town meeting, and after deliberation chose a committee, consisting of nine gentlemen, who resided at different parts of the town, to visit some of the cities and towns of this Commonwealth in order to ascertain what was needed, and to report at an adjourned meeting. The committee attended to that duty, and at





the adjournment presented two reports to the town. The majority were in favor of purchasing a third size first class Amoskeag steam fire engine, to be located at the centre of the town, a hand fire engine for West Townsend, and a chemical fire engine, called the Little Giant, for the Harbor. The minority reported that it was best for the town to purchase a hand machine for the Centre, two chemical engines for West Townsend, with hook and ladder apparatus, and one Little Giant, with hook and ladder apparatus, for the Harbor.

After a long and exciting discussion the town adopted the report of the majority of the committee. At that meeting the town voted to authorize this committee to purchase lands for engine houses, and to locate the same, to buy the engines, hose, nozzles, hose carriages, and every thing necessary for a regular fire department. This committee consisted of Alfred M. Adams, Anson D. Fessenden, E. S. Wilder, Jonas Spaulding, Jr., Alexander Craig, John E. Dickerman, S. W. Upton, William P. Taylor, and John M. Campbell. During the summer and autumn of 1875, the engines, and all the appliances necessary, were bought, and the engine houses were built. The committee introduced first class engines, and built first class engine houses, it is presumed, on the principle that if anything is worth doing, it is worth doing well. A company was soon raised, at the Centre, to man the steamer and hose carriage, and a company was organized at West Townsend, for the hand engine.

On the first of January, 1876, a fire department was formally organized, by the choice of the following officers: Edwin A. Spaulding, foreman of Steam Fire Engine Company, at Townsend Centre. Augustus Wilson, foreman of Eclipse Engine Company, at West Townsend.



Albert L. Fessenden, chief engineer, A. D. Fessenden, first assistant engineer, A. M. Adams, second assistant engineer, Wm. P. Taylor, third assistant engineer, at Townsend Centre; Lewis Sanders, first assistant engineer, Samuel G. Wilson, second assistant engineer, Miletus Gleason, third assistant engineer, at West Townsend; Jonas Spaulding, Jr., first assistant engineer, Noah Wallace, second assistant engineer, at Townsend Harbor.

Fortunately for the town, there has been no large fire since the inauguration of this department, whereby either the efficiency of these machines, or the skill of the firemen, has been particularly tested. It may be a question whether a town of some over two thousand inhabitants, scattered over so large a territory, exercised good judgment in establishing a department of this kind, so expensive, inasmuch as the centre of the town, containing the best dwellings and the most expensive factories of any in town, are well protected by a force pump in the steam mill, and a force pump in the mill of A. M. Adams, either of which are powerful enough to throw water through a long stretch of hose and do good execution. The engines, houses, hose, and every thing connected with the fire department, cost the town, when it was established, about seventeen thousand dollars.

In December, 1866, M. W. Edmund D. Bancroft, grand master of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Massachusetts, and the officers of the grand lodge of this order, and J. L. Spring, M. W. grand master of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of New Hampshire, together with delegates from Fredonia Lodge, Shirley, Harvard Lodge, Harvard, and Custos Morum Lodge,



Milford, New Hampshire, assembled at the hall above the auditorium, in the Universalist church building, at West Townsend, and instituted a Lodge of Odd Fellows, and gave it the name of "North Star Lodge, No. 144." At this meeting, the following officers were chosen and duly installed: David Cram, N. G.; Albert Howe, V. G.; J. F. Stevens, secretary. The regular meetings of this fraternity were held at West Townsend until 1870, when a spacious and elegant hall was fitted up for its accommodation at the centre of the town. Apparently this institution is doing a good work in the cause of morality, sociability, and charity. At present this lodge has one hundred and nine members, a part of whom reside in the adjoining towns. In February, 1877, Albert L. Fessenden, a member of this lodge, was elected grand warden, and in August, 1877, he was elected deputy grand master of the R. W. G. L. of Massachusetts, I. O. O. F.

ALBERT L. FESSENDEN, the junior partner of the firm of Walter Fessenden & Son, was born on West Hill, in 1839. His heritage in his personal appearance and temperament is from the side of his mother, whose name was Harriet E. Lewis, coming from a family noted for good health and a large amount of vitality. At a proper age he went to the academy at Wilbraham, where he remained about three years, ranking well in his studies, particularly so in mathematics. To him they were happy days, those that he passed at Wilbraham Academy. When he was about nineteen years of age, and nearly fitted for college, he left the academy and decided to put in his lot with his father, in the manufacturing business. His first service rendered, consisted of a journey to Nova





*Albert L. Fessenden.*





Scotia and Newfoundland, as a drummer, to sell goods, with the promise that the proceeds of the sale of all the shooks which he sold over a certain number should be placed to his credit as a partner. He appeared at the objective points at just the right time, and the amount of his sales largely exceeded the expectation of either himself or his father.

The manufacture of shooks, during the first decade of the partnership of this firm, was an exceedingly bulky, as well as profitable trade. That a person outside of a coopering town may have some idea of what "shooks" are, it may be proper to put in a short description. The staves of a barrel, knocked down, and tied up in a bundle, after the cask is set up, levelled, howelled and worked off, would be a shook. Those made at that time were of hard wood, either maple, birch, or oak, with staves about twenty-one inches long, and heads, perhaps eighteen inches in diameter, and when set up and hooped, were "quarter fish drums." The heads to be used in these casks were fitted by a machine, and packed in drums to accompany the shooks, which, on arriving at their destination were set up, hooped with iron, and filled with dry fish ready for market. We nearly lost sight of the *man* in describing the *shook*. He conducts the correspondence and attends to the operatives, for the most part, while his father has generally been the travelling salesman. Since the erection of the steam mill, he has given his personal attention to the preparation of the stock, and the running of the engine and machinery. As a man, he is deliberate and circumspect, never excited under reverses, or jubilant over success. He is a good presiding officer at a



public meeting, or can express his views before an audience in an acceptable manner. He is a prominent member of the masonic fraternity, and popular in that order, having passed the chairs in an intelligent and appreciable manner; besides, he is a "past eminent commander" in the order of knighthood, the degrees of which he conferred impressively. He is a bachelor, though not yet "an old bachelor."

The Townsend Bank was chartered in 1854. At the organization of the grantees, in September of that year, John M. Hollingsworth, of Groton, was elected president, and Edward Ordway, cashier. The following October, Mr. Hollingsworth resigned the office of president, and Walter Fessenden was chosen to fill that office. Mr. Ordway was only nineteen years of age. Both of these officers have been at their post since that time, having gained and held the most implicit confidence of the business men of the Commonwealth, and in fact, of the government and nation.

The first board of directors consisted of Walter Fessenden, Daniel Adams, Charles B. Barrett and Samuel Adams, of Townsend, John M. Hollingsworth, of Groton, Stephen Wyman, of Ashby, Luther Tarbell, Jr., of Pepperell, Nelson Howe and Edwin C. Bailey, of Boston. It had one hundred and fourteen shareholders, and one hundred shares was the largest amount taken by one person. The capital stock is one hundred thousand dollars. It has literally been the people's bank, quite a number of the stockholders owning less than ten shares. It was changed to a National Bank, in April, 1865. While



it was a state institution, its bills contained some cunningly drawn figures and sparkling embellishments, calculated at a glance to reveal the contents of the notes of the different denominations.

In 1869, burglars made an attempt to rob this bank. They succeeded in opening the outer door to the vault, but the inside door, made of steel, foiled their plans, and they could go no further. They applied gunpowder to the doors, probably by placing it between them, expecting to drive the inside door into the vault, but without the desired effect. The explosion awakened the neighborhood, and the would-be burglars took to their teams and fled. The direction which they took being soon learned, they were followed by a gentleman, with a fast horse, and their sweaty and panting team, consisting of a pair of fleet horses, was found, just put up in one of the stables in Lowell. The bank now has a surplus fund of about forty thousand dollars.

The Ladies' Benevolent Society, consisting of ladies worshipping with the congregationalists, is deserving of a special notice. Many a thankful heart has bestowed a secret blessing on the efforts of these persons, in their labors of love and philanthropy. Their work has been done very quietly, without any passwords, ostentation, regalia, or high-sounding titles. Without doubt, this passage of the divine word has been kept constantly in view : "And the King shall answer and say unto them; verily I say unto you; Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."



The following is extracted from the proceedings at the semi-centennial gathering of this society, in 1876:—

"1826. Officers of the Ladies' Benevolent Society: Mary Palmer, president; Chloe Stephens, vice-president; Mary Adams, secretary; Abigail Going, treasurer. Managers—Hannah Clement, Hannah Hart, Jane Sanderson, Polly Spaulding.

"1876. Mrs. Jonas Spaulding, Jr., president; Mrs. William P. Taylor, vice-president; Mrs. Asa K. Tyler, secretary and treasurer. Managers—Mrs. Lorenzo Hildreth, Mrs. Noah Adams, Mrs. Benjamin F. Lewis, Miss Maria Winn, Mrs. Aaron Hildreth, Mrs. Thomas F. Seaver.

"In ancient Scripture times—when events occurred which the people wished to keep in mind, we are told they arranged in some way as many large stones as they could conveniently move, and let them stand as a memorial of the event, leaving it to those who knew, to explain from time to time to others. We are invited at this time to bring something to serve the purpose of memorial stones, with reference to our Ladies' Benevolent Society.

"One afternoon, during the spring of 1826, a large company of young ladies from different parts of our town, assembled in the Centre school-room. The motive which brought them together, may be best learned by those records, which have been handed down to us: 'We, the subscribers, believing it to be the duty of all to assist in the great work of spreading the gospel, and feeling it likewise to be a privilege to aid so noble a cause, do agree to form ourselves into a society, and subscribe to the





following articles. First—This society shall be called The Young Ladies' Reading and Charitable Society of Townsend—whose object shall be to meet at stated times and places, for the purpose of braiding straw, knitting and sewing, the avails of which shall be appropriated to some benevolent purpose, expressed by the members of the society.' After the six articles of the constitution are recorded, we find the names of the officers, and the names of the sixty ladies, who were present at that first meeting; very few of whom are now among the living. In 1828, we find this resolution adopted at the annual meeting: 'Any individual neglecting to meet with the society as often as once a quarter, and making no return of work at the annual meeting, shall no longer be considered a member.' Labor with a purpose, was evidently a ruling motive in the early years of this society, though the avails of their labor were necessarily small. The channels of communication, with every part of our own country, were not open as now, and they sent their money or boxes directly to the missionary rooms, in Boston, to aid in foreign work. In 1833, Mrs. William M. Rogers was chosen president; Miss Caroline Wright, vice-president; Mrs. John Bertram, secretary. After this year, until 1838, we find the labors of the society, as such, suspended, and the efforts of the ladies mainly directed to purposes of local interest. They prepared and kept on hand for the purpose of loaning to the needy sick, articles of bedding, wearing apparel, etc. The first record of a box sent west by our society, was made in 1841, when one was sent to Michigan, valued at fifty-four dollars. During this year, a vote was passed to invite the gentlemen to attend the meetings and co-operate in the efforts of the society.



"In 1844, Mrs. Luther H. Sheldon became our president and secretary, which position she held for twelve years—a longer period than any other person. The American Home Missionary Society organized the same year as our own, and later, the American Missionary Association, have afforded facilities for aiding the laborers on our western frontier, and also the freedmen of the south. The exact number of boxes and barrels sent west and south, by our society, we are not able to state; but responses have come to us of such a character, as should stimulate to continued and increasing effort.

"In 1870, Mrs. George H. Morss was chosen president, and Mrs. Asa K. Tyler, secretary and treasurer. Since that date, our financial record appears better than in any part of our history for the same period of time. Our donations in money and clothing, for home missions and the freedmen, being nearly \$450, with a parsonage fund of \$1,400. The society took its present name in 1845, when the constitution was amended.

"As the years have rolled on, we find attention turned from time to time to local interests—sometimes in repairs about our house of worship—sometimes in assisting needy families. At different times we find a committee appointed in the school districts, to see if there were children needing aid to fit them out for Sabbath service. During the war, the soldiers received quite a large share in the interest and labors of this society. While we have not intentionally overlooked *home* interests, in our efforts for those *abroad*, we have desired to act on the principle that *one should be done—the other not left undone.*"



Miss Mary Palmer, the president of this society at its inauguration, is still among the living. She is nearly an octogenarian, in the full possession of her intellectual faculties, "of sound mind and memory," and has furnished the writer with many facts embraced in this work. She is the daughter of Rev. David Palmer. The secretary at that time, Miss Mary Adams, daughter of Dea. Joel Adams, now the widow of John Bertram, M. D., is also alive, and as active in the service as in the days of yore. Miss Myra Proctor, daughter of Dea. John Proctor, was an efficient member of this organization. For the past seventeen years she has been a missionary, stationed at Aintab, Syria. She translated Cutter's Physiology into the Armenio-Turkish language, published at Constantinople, in 1868. She has much energy of character, is genial, and possesses excellent culture. But not to particularize further, it must be acknowledged that all these ladies have been benefactors to their race. "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies."

Townsend has every reason to feel proud of its musical ability, both vocal and instrumental. Prominent among the latter, stands the Townsend Cornet Band, consisting of eighteen pieces, under the direction of Stephen A. Tyler. The band was organized, in 1838, with Luther Adams, as leader. Previous to this time, quite a number of musicians had met together, at different times, for the purpose of practice, but without any regular organization. At first the band consisted of twenty members, and without varying much from that number, it has passed down through subsequent years, under the successive direction of George Warren, Adams Reed,



William Taylor, and Henry L. Butler, to the year 1865, when the present leader, Mr. Tyler, was chosen. He has held the position since then, with the exception of about eight months, during which time his place was filled by his brother, A. Parker Tyler. The band has acquired, as it justly deserves, more than a local recognition, receiving calls from the neighboring cities and towns, whenever an occasion, demanding music, arises. It has numbered among its instructors, Messrs. S. E. Hopkins, M. G. Gilpatrick, and Alonzo Bond. The following is the present membership of the band: Stephen A. Tyler, E flat clarionet; Eugene Wetherbee, B flat clarionet; Fred A. Larkin, E flat cornet; A. Parker Tyler, solo B flat cornet; Charles E. Robinson, first B flat cornet; Augustus A. Gerrish, second B flat cornet; Wallace L. Maynard, solo alto; Andrew Drum, first alto; W. L. Bartlett, second alto; John Arlin, B flat tenor; John Boutelle, baritone; Charles Cram, B flat bass; Martin Whitecomb, tuba; A. K. Tyler, tuba; William Coffee, bass drum; Edward Gonier, snare drum; Elmer Winn, cymbals.

During the past year an orchestra was formed, composed of members of the brass band, with the exception of Charles Cox, Edward A. Walker, and Edward Walker, violinists, consisting of ten pieces. This orchestra discourses sweet music and is well united.

Communications in writing, among the people, at a distance, one hundred years ago, were circulated and travelled much slower than one would suppose. Most all the letters, written in New England, were sent by the market men and teamsters to a general post-office in





Boston, and most of them were advertised in the *Boston Gazette*, a newspaper duly authorized for that purpose. There were some subscribers to that paper in this town, at that time. In 1777, among the letters advertised in a copy of that paper, is one for a man in Lyndeborough, New Hampshire, one for Colonel William Prescott, of Pepperell, and one for "Mary Reed, of Townshend."

In 1794, a man by the name of Balch was a courier between Keene and Boston, travelling on horseback. He came through Townsend, and was an expressman, in a small way, for two or three years, carrying letters and messages, and doing errands.

The Boston and Keene stages began to run in 1806, making three trips a week, at first, but soon after they commenced changing horses so frequently, that the entire distance was made daily. The horses were changed at Concord, Groton, New Ipswich (at the Wheeler tavern,) and Jaffrey, New Hampshire. The coaches met at about noon, in this town, and during a part of the time, the horses were changed and the passengers dined at West Townsend.

The monotony of the long, summer days, in these rural towns, was very pleasantly broken by the noisy axle-trees of these vehicles; and the busy husbandmen and toilers, in the roadside fields, would pause in their labors, to catch a view of those messengers of civilization as they moved briskly along. Some of the stage drivers are well remembered at the present time. Kimball Danforth was very popular, and later, Walter Carlton and Stephen Corbin were for a long time in the service. These men studied to make every thing agreeable to their passengers,



and were very accommodating to all wishing to send errands or packages. Their hardships in occasionally encountering the deep snow-drifts on the hills, and the pinching northwest winds which January sweeps over the Townsend plains, are not forgotten. After the rail-roads were made, some of these drivers were placed upon the cars, as conductors, but they always appeared out of their element, and as though they greatly preferred the excitement afforded by their pet animals, rather than the unnatural snort of the iron horse.

The following is a list of the postmasters at Townsend Centre, and the time of their appointments :—

MOSES WARREN, July 1, 1808.

JOHN W. LORING, July 1, 1811.

WILLIAM A. BANCROFT, February 17, 1817.

AARON KEYS, August 23, 1820.

Office discontinued, October 29, 1834.

Re-established, April 11, 1835.

JOSEPH ADAMS, JR., April 11, 1835.

THOMAS FARRAR, July 20, 1839.

WALTER FESSENDEN, November 12, 1846.

JOHN BROOKS, September 15, 1849.

GEORGE A. WOOD, September 13, 1851.

CHARLES OSGOOD, August 12, 1852.

WILLIAM P. TAYLOR, April 12, 1861.

EDWIN A. LARKIN, September 27, 1866.

CHARLES OSGOOD, August 5, 1868.

WILLIAM P. TAYLOR, April 8, 1869.



The following is a list of the postmasters at Townsend Harbor, and the time of their appointments:—

JAMES S. WALTON, \* \* \* \* \*

DAVID B. LIVERMORE, July 31, 1832.

PAUL GERRISH, February 23, 1835.

EBENEZER P. HILLS, April 17, 1839.

CHARLES GERRISH, February 23, 1842.

CHARLES EMERY, February 8, 1843.

OLIVER WHITCOMB, January 3, 1850.

CHARLES EMERY, September 15, 1855.

The following is a list of the postmasters at West Townsend, and the time of their appointments:—

SILAS BRUCE, July 20, 1849.

AUGUSTUS G. STICKNEY, June 25, 1855.

ALBERT HOWE, April 22, 1861.

AUGUSTUS G. STICKNEY, July 17, 1862.

ALBERT HOWE, October 1, 1862.

There was a mail route established between Lowell and Worcester, in 1832, which gave the Harbor a post-office, at this early date, that point being on the route.

The post-office at Townsend Centre was discontinued in 1834, from the cause, that the returns to the department were not made as promptly as was required, so that all mail matter for this town, from October 1834, to April 11, 1835, came to the Harbor.



## CHAPTER XV.

### *TOWN OFFICERS.*

Some Remarkable Votes of the Town—Good Sense of the Town About Taxes—Names of the Town Clerks, Moderators, Selectmen, and Representatives, from the Time the Town was Chartered to 1879—Justices of the Peace—County Road Through Groton—Deer Reeves—Hog Reeves—Tithing-Men.

The names of the town officers, from the date of its incorporation to 1879, are contained in this chapter, and it is hoped that they are arranged in a manner that will be agreeable to the reader. These men all entered upon the discharge of their several duties, clothed with a solemn oath, and it is due to each and every one of them, to assume that their best abilities were enlisted in the interest of the town. Their acts have passed into history, and the relative position that Townsend now holds, compared with her sister towns in this Commonwealth, in the scale of wealth, morality or religion, is traceable to the manner in which they have discharged the duties committed to their trust. A tinge of melancholy has shaded the records, during the generations, as able and experienced boards of officers have fallen behind to give place to others, who also in their turn have melted into the shadowy past,





without the personal remembrance of either kindred or friends.

“And others rise to fill our places;  
We sleep, and others run the races;  
And earth beneath and skies above  
Are still the same; and God is love.”

For more than a century, after the town received its charter, the selectmen charged nothing and received nothing for their services, except the honor of being the “fathers of the town.” One instance on record where pay was received for services rendered is as follows: In 1771, (town records, page 138.) “Voted to give Thomas Hubbert two pounds for a peculiar favor he has shone the town.” What that peculiar favor, was is unknown, this being the entire record on that subject. It may be inferred that it was of considerable consequence to the town, for although the amount Mr. Hobart received would appear insignificant in the eyes of a public servant of the present day, he undoubtedly regarded it as a goodly amount of “the filthy lucre.” It was customary to pay the assessors a small sum for their services, who, during the time above mentioned, constituted a board entirely separate from the selectmen.

The practical good sense and judgment of the people who were here more than one hundred years ago, appeared in the act of the town, in 1777, when the money was appropriated by the town to pay the revolutionary soldiers, and different quotas were awarded different amounts; after the several sums were agreed upon by the assembled citizens, “Voted that all the above estimates be made into a rate on the several inhabitants of this town, and that the polls pay one-half of said rate.” This has the appearance of fair play and justice, and is more



consistent than the present method. A poll-tax for some time past has been, and is at present, two dollars. The tax on a male animal, of the canine species, is two dollars; that on a female animal, of the same species, is five dollars; so that occasionally a man will pay two and one-half times as much for the existence of a worthless pet dog, as he has to pay for his own head and all the advantages of good roads, good schools, and every thing that makes civilized life superior to barbarism. The polls in Townsend for some time have paid about one-sixteenth of the entire tax, when one-fifth would have been a fairer proportion.

It will be observed, in the following catalogue, that Townsend omitted to send a representative to the General Court, many times during the first fifty years after the acquisition of our national independence. Probably this may be accounted for from the fact that each town for most of that time, paid its own representative, and the neglect was regarded as economy. A law suit (James Locke *vs.* The inhabitants of the town of Townsend,) was commenced in 1786, concerning a bill which James Locke brought against the town for services as a representative. The town considered the charges, in his account, excessive, and refused to pay it, which after the usual delays of the law was finally compromised and adjusted.

Townsend has guarded her interests invariably with a jealous eye, and maintained her legal rights, "asking for nothing but what was right, and submitting to nothing that was wrong."

The records for 1732 are lost, so that it is impossible to give the officers for that year. Samuel Manning was the town clerk, as appears from a part of the record, for that

the first of these, the *History of the* *Republic of Venice*, is a work of great value and interest. It is a history of the city of Venice, and of the Republic of Venice, from the time of its foundation to the present day. The author, *John Smith*, is a native of Venice, and has written this history with great care and accuracy. The second of these, the *History of the* *Republic of Florence*, is also a work of great value and interest. It is a history of the city of Florence, and of the Republic of Florence, from the time of its foundation to the present day. The author, *John Smith*, is a native of Florence, and has written this history with great care and accuracy.

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The third of these, the *History of the* *Republic of Pisa*, is a work of great value and interest. It is a history of the city of Pisa, and of the Republic of Pisa, from the time of its foundation to the present day. The author, *John Smith*, is a native of Pisa, and has written this history with great care and accuracy. The fourth of these, the *History of the* *Republic of Lucca*, is also a work of great value and interest. It is a history of the city of Lucca, and of the Republic of Lucca, from the time of its foundation to the present day. The author, *John Smith*, is a native of Lucca, and has written this history with great care and accuracy. The fifth of these, the *History of the* *Republic of Siena*, is a work of great value and interest. It is a history of the city of Siena, and of the Republic of Siena, from the time of its foundation to the present day. The author, *John Smith*, is a native of Siena, and has written this history with great care and accuracy. The sixth of these, the *History of the* *Republic of Arezzo*, is also a work of great value and interest. It is a history of the city of Arezzo, and of the Republic of Arezzo, from the time of its foundation to the present day. The author, *John Smith*, is a native of Arezzo, and has written this history with great care and accuracy. The seventh of these, the *History of the* *Republic of Pistoia*, is a work of great value and interest. It is a history of the city of Pistoia, and of the Republic of Pistoia, from the time of its foundation to the present day. The author, *John Smith*, is a native of Pistoia, and has written this history with great care and accuracy. The eighth of these, the *History of the* *Republic of Carrara*, is also a work of great value and interest. It is a history of the city of Carrara, and of the Republic of Carrara, from the time of its foundation to the present day. The author, *John Smith*, is a native of Carrara, and has written this history with great care and accuracy. The ninth of these, the *History of the* *Republic of Livorno*, is a work of great value and interest. It is a history of the city of Livorno, and of the Republic of Livorno, from the time of its foundation to the present day. The author, *John Smith*, is a native of Livorno, and has written this history with great care and accuracy. The tenth of these, the *History of the* *Republic of Grosseto*, is also a work of great value and interest. It is a history of the city of Grosseto, and of the Republic of Grosseto, from the time of its foundation to the present day. The author, *John Smith*, is a native of Grosseto, and has written this history with great care and accuracy.

year. There is not much doubt but that the town had the same officers, in 1732, as in 1733:—

1733. Moderator, Joseph Stevens; Clerk, Samuel Manning. Selectmen—Joseph Stevens, Joseph Baldwin, Samuel Manning.
1734. Moderator, Jasher Wyman; Clerk, Samuel Manning. Selectmen—Joseph Stevens, Joseph Baldwin, Samuel Manning.
1735. Moderator, Jasher Wyman; Clerk, Samuel Manning. Selectmen—John Stevens, Jasher Wyman, Daniel Taylor, Jeremiah Ball, Samuel Manning.
1736. Moderator, Samuel Manning; Clerk, John Stevens. Selectmen—John Stevens, Jasher Wyman, Daniel Taylor.
1737. Moderator, Daniel Taylor; Clerk, Samuel Manning. Selectmen—Samuel Manning, John Stevens, William Clark, Amos Whitney, Jacob Baldwin.
1738. Moderator, Jasher Wyman; Clerk, Samuel Manning. Selectmen—Daniel Taylor, James Hosley, Amos Whitney, Isaac Spaulding, Samuel Manning.
1739. Moderator, Nathaniel Richardson; Clerk, Samuel Manning. Selectmen—Samuel Manning, Daniel Taylor, Jasher Wyman, Ephraim Brown, Amos Whitney.



1740. Moderator, Ephraim Brown ; Clerk, Samuel Manning. Selectmen—John Stevens, Daniel Taylor, Amos Whitney.
1741. Moderator, Daniel Taylor ; Clerk, Samuel Manning. Selectmen—William Fletcher, John Stevens, Nathaniel Richardson.
1742. Moderator, John Stevens ; Clerk, Samuel Manning. Selectmen—Samuel Manning, John Stevens, Daniel Taylor, Ephraim Brown, William Fletcher.
1743. Moderator, Daniel Taylor ; Clerk, Samuel Manning. Selectmen—Samuel Manning, John Stevens, Benjamin Brooks, Ephraim Brown, Daniel Taylor.
1744. Moderator, Daniel Taylor ; Clerk, Samuel Manning. Selectmen—Samuel Manning, Benjamin Brooks, Nathaniel Richardson, Josiah Robbins, Daniel Taylor.
1745. Moderator, John Stevens ; Clerk, Samuel Manning. Selectmen—John Stevens, Benjamin Brooks, Nathaniel Richardson, John Conant, Amos Whitney.
1746. Moderator, John Stevens ; Clerk, John Stevens. Selectmen—John Stevens, Benjamin Brooks, Nathaniel Richardson.





1747. Moderator, John Stevens; Clerk, John Stevens.  
Selectmen—John Stevens, Benjamin Brooks,  
Jeremiah Ball, Isaac Spaulding, John Wallis.
1748. Moderator, Nathaniel Richardson; Clerk, Samuel  
Manning. Selectmen—John Stevens, Jonathan  
Hubbard, Amos Whitney.
1749. Moderator, Jonathan Hubbard; Clerk, Samuel  
Manning. Selectmen—John Stevens, Jonathan  
Hubbard, Amos Whitney.
1750. Moderator, Jonathan Hubbard; Clerk, Samuel  
Manning. Selectmen—John Stevens, Jonathan  
Wallis, Amos Whitney.
1751. Moderator, Daniel Taylor; Clerk, Samuel Man-  
ning. Selectmen—Samuel Manning, Benjamin  
Brooks, Amos Whitney.
1752. Moderator, Daniel Taylor; Clerk, Samuel Man-  
ning. Selectmen—Samuel Manning, Amos  
Whitney, Jonathan Hubbard.
1753. Moderator, Jonathan Hubbard; Clerk, Samuel  
Manning. Selectmen—John Stevens, Jonathan  
Hubbard, Benjamin Brooks, Amos Whitney,  
Isaac Spaulding.
1754. Moderator, John Stevens; Clerk, Samuel Man-  
ning. Selectmen—John Conant, Daniel Adams,  
Zacheriah Emery.



1755. Moderator, Daniel Taylor; Clerk, Samuel Manning. Selectmen—Samuel Manning, Daniel Adams, John Conant, Zacheriah Emery, Ephraim Brown.
1756. Moderator, Jonathan Hubbard; Clerk, Samuel Manning. Selectmen—Jonathan Hubbard, Amos Whitney, Daniel Adams, Zacheriah Emery, Samuel Manning.
1757. Moderator, Jonathan Hubbard; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Jonathan Hubbard, Amos Whitney, Daniel Adams, Ebenezer Wyman, William Stevens.
1758. Moderator, Jonathan Hubbard; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Jonathan Hubbard, Daniel Adams, Amos Whitney, Daniel Taylor, Benjamin Brooks.
1759. Moderator, Benjamin Brooks; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Benjamin Brooks, Amos Whitney, Isaac Spaulding, Daniel Adams, Ephraim Heald.
1760. Moderator, Daniel Taylor; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Amos Whitney, Daniel Taylor, Ephraim Heald, Isaac Spaulding.
1761. Moderator, Daniel Taylor; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Daniel Taylor, Zacheriah Emery, Isaac Farrar, Ephraim Heald.



1762. Moderator, Daniel Taylor; Clerk, Daniel Adams.  
Selectmen—Amos Whitney, Oliver Hildreth,  
Jonathan Wallis, Daniel Taylor, Daniel Adams.
1763. Moderator, Daniel Taylor; Clerk, Daniel Adams.  
Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Isaac Spaulding,  
Daniel Taylor, Benjamin Brooks, Zachariah  
Emery.
1764. Moderator, Daniel Taylor; Clerk, Daniel Adams.  
Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Amos Whitney,  
Ephraim Heald, Thomas Warren, Jonathan  
Wallis.
1765. Moderator, Daniel Taylor; Clerk, Daniel Adams.  
Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Daniel Taylor,  
Ephraim Heald, Ephraim Brown, William  
Clark.
1766. Moderator, Daniel Taylor; Clerk, Daniel Adams.  
Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Ephraim Heald,  
Benjamin Brooks, James Hosley, Jonathan  
Wallis.
1767. Moderator, Ephraim Heald; Clerk, Daniel  
Adams. Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Ephraim  
Heald, Thomas Warren, Isaac Farrar, Jonathan  
Wallis.
1768. Moderator, Ephraim Heald; Clerk, Daniel  
Adams. Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Ephraim  
Heald, Jonathan Wallis, Benjamin Brooks,  
Amos Heald.



1769. Moderator, Samuel Manning; Clerk, Samuel Manning. Selectmen—Samuel Manning, Amos Heald, Isaac Farrar, Jonathan Patts, Daniel Sherwin.
1770. Moderator, Amos Heald; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Amos Heald, Isaac Farrar, Thomas Warren, John Conant.
1771. Moderator, James Hosley; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Daniel Adams, James Hosley, John Conant, Benjamin Spaulding, Samuel Douglas.
1772. Moderator, Jonathan Wallis; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Isaac Farrar, Samuel Douglas, Zachariah Emery, James Hosley.
1773. Moderator, James Hosley; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Daniel Adams, James Hosley, Zachariah Emery, Benjamin Brooks, Jonathan Wallis.
1774. Moderator, Daniel Taylor; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Daniel Taylor, Richard Wyer, Jonathan Wallis, Benjamin Brooks.
1775. Moderator, James Hosley; Clerk, James Hosley. Selectmen—James Hosley, Isaac Farrar, Thomas Warren, Daniel Emery, Richard Wyer. Representative in the Provincial Congress, Israel Hobart.





1776. Moderator, Daniel Adams ; Clerk, James Hosley.  
Selectmen—James Hosley, Isaac Farrar, Daniel Emery, Richard Wyer, Zacheriah Emery.  
Representative in the Provincial Congress, Israel Hobart.
1777. Moderator, Daniel Adams ; Clerk, James Hosley.  
Selectmen—James Hosley, Richard Wyer, Levi Whitney, Zacheriah Emery, Thomas Warren.  
Representative, James Locke.
1778. Moderator, Daniel Adams ; Clerk, James Hosley.  
Selectmen—James Hosley, Richard Wyer, Thomas Warren, Benjamin Spaulding, Elijah Wyman.  
Representative, James Locke.
1779. Moderator, Daniel Adams ; Clerk, James Hosley.  
Selectmen—Thomas Warren, Benjamin Spaulding, Samuel Maynard, Daniel Adams, Jr., Elijah Wyman.  
Sent no Representative.
1780. Moderator, Daniel Adams ; Clerk, James Hosley.  
Selectmen—Thomas Warren, Richard Wyer, Isaac Farrar, Daniel Adams, Jr., Benjamin Spaulding.  
Representative, James Locke.
1781. Moderator, Daniel Adams ; Clerk, James Hosley.  
Selectmen—Thomas Warren, Richard Wyer, Benjamin Spaulding, Lemuel Petts, Daniel Adams, Jr.  
Representative, Thomas Warren.



1782. Moderator, Isaac Farrar; Clerk, Benjamin Ball.  
Selectmen—Benjamin Ball, Daniel Adams, Jr.,  
Lemuel Petts, Daniel Sherwin, James Giles.  
Representative, James Locke.
1783. Moderator, Daniel Adams; Clerk, Benjamin Ball.  
Selectmen—Benjamin Ball, Daniel Adams, Jr.,  
Benjamin Spaulding, Thomas Seaver, Elijah  
Wyman.
1784. Moderator, William Hobart; Clerk, Benjamin  
Ball. Selectmen—Benjamin Ball, Daniel Ad-  
ams, Jr., Benjamin Spaulding, Thomas Seaver,  
Lemuel Petts.  
Representative, William Hobart.
1785. Moderator, Daniel Adams; Clerk, Benjamin Ball.  
Selectmen—Benjamin Ball, Thomas Seaver,  
Thomas Warren.
1786. Moderator, Daniel Adams; Clerk, Benjamin Ball.  
Selectmen—Benjamin Ball, Thomas Warren,  
Benjamin Spaulding.
1787. Moderator, Daniel Adams; Clerk, Daniel Adams,  
Jr. Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Jr., Lemuel  
Petts, Benjamin Spaulding, Jacob Blodget,  
Abner Adams.  
Representative, Daniel Adams.
1788. Moderator, David Spafford; Clerk, Daniel Ad-  
ams, Jr. Selectmen—Benjamin Ball, Benjamin  
Spaulding, David Spafford, Jr., Thomas War-  
ren, Thomas Seaver.  
Representative, Daniel Adams.



1789. Moderator, Daniel Adams ; Clerk, Benjamin Ball.  
Selectmen—Benjamin Ball, Benjamin Spaulding,  
David Spafford, Jr., Daniel Adams, Jr., John  
Campbell.  
Representative, Daniel Adams.
1790. Moderator, Daniel Adams ; Clerk, Daniel Adams,  
Jr. Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Jr., Benjamin  
Spaulding, John Campbell, Richard Wyer,  
Lemuel Petts.  
Representative, Daniel Adams.
1791. Moderator, Daniel Adams ; Clerk, Daniel Adams,  
Jr. Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Jr., Benjamin  
Spaulding, Nathan Conant, John Campbell,  
John Emery.
1792. Moderator, Daniel Adams ; Clerk, Daniel Adams,  
Jr. Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Jr., Lemuel  
Petts, Jonathan Wallis, John Campbell, Nathan  
Conant.  
Representative, Jonathan Wallis.
1793. Moderator, Daniel Adams ; Clerk, Life Baldwin.  
Selectmen—Life Baldwin, Daniel Adams, Jr.,  
John Campbell, Jonathan Wallace, Zachariah  
Hildreth.  
Representative, Jonathan Wallace.
1794. Moderator, Walden Stone ; Clerk, Walden Stone.  
Selectmen—Life Baldwin, John Campbell, Jona-  
than Wallis, Abner Adams, Thomas Seaver.  
Sent no Representative.



1795. Moderator, Walden Stone ; Clerk, Jacob Blodget.  
Selectmen—Jacob Blodget, Abner Adams, John  
Emery, Samuel Stone, Nathan Seales.  
Sent no Representative.

1796. Moderator, Daniel Adams ; Clerk, Jacob Blodget.  
Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Jacob Blodget, Ab-  
ner Adams, John Emery, Samuel Stone.  
Representative, Daniel Adams.

1797. Moderator, John Campbell ; Clerk, Daniel Adams.  
Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Jacob Blodget, Ab-  
ner Adams, Samuel Stone, Josiah Richardson.  
Representative, Daniel Adams.

1798. Moderator, Jonathan Wallis ; Clerk, Isaac Mulli-  
kin. Selectmen—Walter Mullikin, Jacob Blod-  
get, Abner Adams, Josiah Richardson, Samuel  
Brooks.  
Sent no Representative.

1799. Moderator, John Campbell ; Clerk, Isaac Mullikin.  
Selectmen—Isaac Mullikin, Abner Adams, Jo-  
siah Richardson, John Emery, Samuel Brooks.  
Representative, John Campbell.

1800. Moderator, Daniel Adams ; Clerk, Daniel Adams.  
Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Abner Adams, Jo-  
siah Richardson, Samuel Brooks, John Emery.  
Representative, John Campbell.

1801. Moderator, Caleb Sylvester ; Clerk, Daniel Adams.  
Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Josiah Richardson,  
Joseph Adams, Abner Adams, Caleb Sylvester.  
Representative, John Campbell.





1802. Moderator, Caleb Sylvester ; Clerk, Isaac Mullikin. Selectmen—Isaac Mullikin, John Campbell, Jonathan Keep, Samuel Stone, Daniel Conant.

Sent no Representative.

1803. Moderator, John Campbell ; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Abner Adams, John Campbell, Josiah Richardson, Jacob Blodget.

Sent no Representative.

1804. Moderator, John Campbell ; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Daniel Adams, John Campbell, Jacob Blodget, Benaniel Pratt, Shubal C. Allen.

Sent no Representative.

1805. Moderator, Caleb Sylvester ; Clerk, Josiah Richardson. Selectmen—Josiah Richardson, John Emery, Daniel Conant, Ebenezer Stone, Richard Warner.

Representative, John Campbell.

1806. Moderator, Daniel Adams ; Clerk, Josiah Richardson. Selectmen—Josiah Richardson, John Emery, Daniel Conant, Ebenezer Stone, Richard Warner.

Representative, John Campbell.

1807. Moderator, Daniel Conant ; Clerk, Josiah Richardson. Selectmen—Josiah Richardson, John Emery, Daniel Conant, Ebenezer Stone, Richard Warner.

Representative, Abner Adams.



1808. Moderator, Daniel Adams; Clerk, Josiah Richardson. Selectmen—Josiah Richardson, Ebenezer Stone, Aaron Warren, Samuel Brooks, Nathaniel Cummings.

Representative, Abner Adams.

1809. Moderator, John Emery; Clerk, Josiah Richardson. Selectmen—Josiah Richardson, Aaron Warren, Samuel Brooks, Nathaniel Cummings, Noah Ball.

Sent no Representative.

1810. Moderator, Aaron Warren; Clerk, Josiah Richardson. Selectmen—Josiah Richardson, Aaron Warren, Samuel Brooks, Nathaniel Cummings, William Archibald.

Representative, Abner Adams.

1811. Moderator, Aaron Warren; Clerk, Samuel Brooks. Selectmen—Samuel Brooks, Richard Warner, Aaron Warren, Nathaniel Cummings, William Archibald.

Representative, Samuel Brooks.

1812. Moderator, Aaron Warren; Clerk, Samuel Brooks. Selectmen—Samuel Brooks, Richard Warner, Aaron Warren, Nathaniel Cummings, William Archibald.

Representative, Samuel Brooks.

1813. Moderator, Aaron Warren; Clerk, Samuel Brooks. Selectmen—Samuel Brooks, Aaron Warren, Nathaniel Cummings, William Archibald, Joseph Adams.

Representative, Samuel Brooks.



1814. Moderator, Aaron Warren ; Clerk, Samuel Brooks.  
Selectmen—Samuel Brooks, Aaron Warren,  
William Archibald, Joseph Adams, Eliab  
Going.  
Representative, Samuel Brooks.
1815. Moderator, Aaron Warren ; Clerk, Samuel Brooks.  
Selectmen—Samuel Brooks, Joseph Adams,  
Eliab Going, Nathaniel Cummings, Isaac San-  
ders.  
Representative, Samuel Brooks.
1816. Moderator, Josiah Richardson ; Clerk, Nathaniel  
Cummings. Selectmen—Nathaniel Cummings,  
Josiah Richardson, Isaac Sanders, Zela Bartlett,  
Solomon Jewett.  
Representative, Samuel Brooks.
1817. Moderator, Aaron Warren ; Clerk, Nathaniel  
Cummings. Selectmen—Nathaniel Cummings,  
Josiah Richardson, Isaac Sanders, Benaniel  
Pratt, Joel Adams.  
Representative, Samuel Brooks.
1818. Moderator, Aaron Warren ; Clerk, Nathaniel  
Cummings. Selectmen—Nathaniel Cummings,  
Samuel Brooks, Aaron Warren.  
Sent no Representative.
1819. Moderator, Aaron Warren ; Clerk, Nathaniel  
Cummings. Selectmen—Nathaniel Cummings,  
Samuel Brooks, Aaron Warren.  
Representative, Aaron Warren.



1820. Moderator, Aaron Warren; Clerk, Nathaniel Cummings. Selectmen—Nathaniel Cummings, Samuel Brooks, Isaac Turner.  
Representative, Aaron Warren.
1821. Moderator, Aaron Warren; Clerk, Aaron Warren. Selectmen—Aaron Warren, Samuel Stone, Jr., John Shipley.  
Representative, Aaron Warren.
1822. Moderator, Nathaniel Cummings; Clerk, Aaron Warren. Selectmen—Aaron Warren, Samuel Stone, Jr., Daniel Giles.  
Sent no Representative.
1823. Moderator, Aaron Keyes; Clerk, Aaron Warren. Selectmen—Aaron Warren, Samuel Stone, Jr., Daniel Giles.  
Representative, Aaron Warren.
1824. Moderator, William A. Bancroft; Clerk, Aaron Warren. Selectmen—Aaron Warren, Joel Adams, Joel Spaulding.  
Representative, Aaron Warren.
1825. Moderator, Joel Adams; Clerk, Joel Adams. Selectmen—Joel Adams, Joel Spaulding, Josiah G. Heald.  
Sent no Representative.
1826. Moderator, Aaron Warren; Clerk, Aaron Warren. Selectmen—Aaron Warren, Josiah G. Heald, Samuel Brooks, Aaron Keyes, William Pratt.  
Representative, Aaron Warren.





1827. Moderator, Solomon Jewett, Jr.; Clerk, Aaron Warren. Selectmen—Aaron Warren, Samuel Stone, Jr., William Pratt, Joel Spaulding, Aaron Keyes.  
Representative, Aaron Warren.\*
1828. Moderator, Jacob S. Ryner; Clerk, Aaron Warren. Selectmen—Aaron Warren, William Pratt, Josiah G. Heald, Paul Gerrish, Aaron Keyes.  
Representative, Aaron Warren.
1829. Moderator, Solomon Jewett, Jr.; Clerk, Aaron Warren. Selectmen—Aaron Warren, William Pratt, Paul Gerrish, Aaron Keyes, Richard W. Pierce.  
Representative, Aaron Warren.
1830. Moderator, Solomon Jewett, Jr.; Clerk, Aaron Warren. Selectmen—Paul Gerrish, Aaron Keyes, Richard W. Pierce, Solomon Jewett, Jr., Benjamin Barrett, Jr.  
Representative, Aaron Warren.
1831. Moderator, Solomon Jewett, Jr.; Clerk, Solomon Jewett, Jr., Selectmen—Solomon Jewett, Jr., Richard W. Pierce, Benjamin Barrett, Jr., Josiah G. Heald, Isaac Spaulding.  
Sent no Representative.

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\*In 1827, "Voted that the town will abolish the custom of receiving a treat from their representative when chosen." Townsend commenced early in the temperance cause. Aaron Warren, this year, instead of furnishing the liquors, presented an expensive pall or burying-cloth to the town. This might have been intended as a symbol of public opinion which was preparing to bury His Majesty, King Alcohol.



1832. Moderator, Aaron Keyes; Clerk, Solomon Jewett.  
Jr. Selectmen—Solomon Jewett, Jr., Richard  
W. Pierce, Benjamin Barrett, Jr., Joel Emery,  
Levi Sherwin.  
Representative, Paul Gerrish.
1833. Moderator, Joel Adams; Clerk, David Palmer.  
Selectmen—Solomon Jewett, Jr., Richard W.  
Pierce, Benjamin Barrett, Jr., Levi Ball, Abra-  
ham Seaver.  
Representative, David Palmer.
1834. Moderator, Henry Seeva; Clerk, Paul Gerrish.  
Selectmen—Paul Gerrish, Joel Emery, William  
Pratt.  
Representatives, David Palmer and Elnathan  
Davis.
1835. Moderator, Joseph Steele; Clerk, Paul Gerrish.  
Selectmen—Paul Gerrish, William Pratt, Benja-  
min Barrett, Jr.  
Representatives, Joel Emery and David Palmer.
1836. Moderator, Samuel Adams; Clerk, David Palmer.  
Selectmen—Quincy Sylvester, Luther Adams,  
Daniel Adams.  
Representatives, Joel Emery and Samuel Adams.
1837. Moderator, Samuel Adams; Clerk, David Palmer.  
Selectmen—Joel Adams, Levi Ball, Elnathan  
Davis.  
Representative, Joel Emery.



1838. Moderator, Henry Sceva ; Clerk, David Palmer.  
Selectmen—William Pratt, Benjamin Barrett,  
Jr., Paul Gerrish.  
Representative, Josiah G. Heald.
1839. Moderator, Ezra Blood ; Clerk, Samuel Adams.  
Selectmen—Joel Adams, Joel Emery, Luther  
Adams.  
Representative, Luther Adams.
1840. Moderator, Henry Sceva ; Clerk, John Bertram.  
Selectmen—Joel Emery, Richard W. Pierce,  
William Pratt.  
Representative, Daniel Giles.
1841. Moderator, Henry Sceva ; Clerk, John Bertram.  
Selectmen—Henry Sceva, Ebenezer Rawson,  
Henry A. Woods.  
Sent no Representative.
1842. Moderator, Henry Sceva ; Clerk, John Bertram.  
Selectmen—Henry Sceva, Henry A. Woods,  
Luther Adams.  
Representative, Henry Sceva.
1843. Moderator, Ezra Blood ; Clerk, Daniel Giles.  
Selectmen—Paul Gerrish, Luther Adams, Daniel  
Adams.  
Representative, Henry Sceva.
1844. Moderator, Ezra Blood ; Clerk, Daniel Giles.  
Selectmen—Paul Gerrish, Daniel Adams, Luther  
Adams.  
Sent no Representative.



1845. Moderator, Samuel Adams; Clerk, Daniel Giles.  
Selectmen—John Scales, Levi Stearns, Ebenezer  
Rawson.  
Sent no Representative.
1846. Moderator, Daniel Adams; Clerk, Daniel Giles.  
Selectmen—John Scales, Joseph Adams, John  
Hart.  
Representative, Levi Warren.
1847. Moderator, Ezra Blood, Jr.; Clerk, Joseph  
Adams. Selectmen—Joseph Adams, Levi  
Stearns, John Hart.  
Representative, Joel Kendall.
1848. Moderator, Ezra Blood, Jr.; Clerk, Joseph Adams.  
Selectmen—Joseph Adams, Levi Stearns, Joel  
Emery.  
Representative, Joel Emery.
1849. Moderator, Ezra Blood, Jr.; Clerk, Joseph Adams.  
Selectmen—Joel Emery, Luther Adams, Ezra  
Blood, Jr.  
Representative, Samuel Hart.
1850. Moderator, Ezra Blood; Clerk, Joseph Adams.  
Selectmen—Joseph Adams, John Scales, Zimri  
Sherwin.  
Representative, Henry A. Gerry.
1851. Moderator, Charles Powers; Clerk, Henry A.  
Gerry. Selectmen—Charles Powers, Aaron  
Pressey, Joel Emery.  
Representative, Samuel S. Haynes.





1852. Moderator, Levi Sherwin ; Clerk, Quincy A. Sylvester. Selectmen—Quincy A. Sylvester, Levi Sherwin, Nathaniel F. Cummings.  
Sent no Representative.
1853. Moderator, Abram S. French ; Clerk, Quincy A. Sylvester. Selectmen—Daniel Adams, Nathaniel F. Cummings, Charles B. Barrett.  
Sent no Representative.
1854. Moderator, Samuel Adams ; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Joseph Adams, Levi Stearns, Charles B. Barrett.  
Representative, Benjamin E. Wetherbee.
1855. Moderator, Ezra Blood ; Clerk, Rector T. Bartlett. Selectmen—Nathaniel F. Cummings, Ezra Blood, James E. Adams.  
Representative, Frederick A. Worcester.
1856. Moderator, Eliab Going ; Clerk, Rector T. Bartlett. Selectmen—Nathaniel F. Cummings, Daniel Adams, Alexander Craig.  
Representative, Luther Adams.
1857. Moderator, Eliab Going ; Clerk, Rector T. Bartlett. Selectmen—Henry Sceva, Albert Howe, Benjamin E. Wetherbee.  
Representative, Frederick A. Worcester, of Townsend.\*

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\* Townsend and Ashby constituted District No. 27, this year.



1858. Moderator, Ezra Blood; Clerk, Daniel Adams.  
Selectmen—Joseph Adams, William H. Lewis,  
Zimri Sherwin.  
Representative, Noah Ball, of Townsend.

1859. Moderator, Ezra Blood; Clerk, Daniel Adams.  
Selectmen—John Scales, Jr., John Whitcomb,  
Jonathan Pierce.  
Representative, Alexander Craig, of Townsend.

1860. Moderator, Christopher Gates; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—John Scales, Jr., Alexander Craig, Benjamin F. Lewis.  
Representative, Joseph Foster, of Ashby.

1861. Moderator, Ezra Blood; Clerk, Ezra Blood. Selectmen—Nathaniel F. Cummings, Alexander Craig, Benjamin F. Lewis.  
Representative, Abram S. French, of Townsend.

1862. Moderator, Edwin A. Larkin; Clerk, Noah Wallace. Selectmen—Nathaniel F. Cummings, Alexander Craig, Benjamin F. Lewis.  
Representative, Abram S. French, of Townsend.

1863. Moderator, Samuel S. Haynes; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Nathaniel F. Cummings, Oliver H. Pratt, Charles H. Warren.  
Representative, Paul Gates, of Ashby.

1864. Moderator, Stillman Haynes; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Nathaniel F. Cummings, James N. Tucker, Newton C. Boutell.  
Representative, Anson D. Fessenden, of Townsend.



1865. Moderator, Stillman Haynes; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Oliver Proctor, Stillman Haynes, Abel G. Stearns.  
Representative, George L. Hitchcock, of Ashby.
1866. Moderator, Samuel S. Haynes; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Abel G. Stearns, Noah Ball, Edwin A. Larkin.  
Representative, Noah Wallace, of Townsend.
1867. Moderator, Christopher Gates; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Abel G. Stearns, Benjamin F. Lewis, Edwin A. Larkin.  
Representative, Jonathan Pierce, of Townsend.\*
1868. Moderator, Christopher Gates; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Abel G. Stearns, Edwin A. Larkin, Jonathan Pierce.  
Representative, A. A. Plympton, of Shirley.
1869. Moderator, Christopher Gates; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Abel G. Stearns, Charles Osgood, Benjamin Brown.  
Representative, Samuel R. Damon, of Ashby.
1870. Moderator, Christopher Gates; Clerk, Daniel Adams. Selectmen—Abel G. Stearns, Charles Osgood, Benjamin Brown.  
Representative, Benjamin F. Lewis, of Townsend.

\* In 1867, Townsend, Ashby and Shirley, constituted a representative district. Middlesex county was entitled to forty-one of the two hundred and forty members of the House of Representatives.



1871. Moderator, Ithamar B. Sawtelle; Clerk, Christopher Gates. Selectmen—Abel G. Stearns, Benjamin Brown, Joshua S. Page.  
Representative, Alvin Lawton, of Shirley.
1872. Moderator, Ithamar B. Sawtelle; Clerk, Christopher Gates. Selectmen—Abel G. Stearns, Benjamin Brown, Joshua S. Page.  
Representative, Samuel S. Haynes, of Townsend.
1873. Moderator, Ithamar B. Sawtelle; Clerk, Christopher Gates. Selectmen—Abel G. Stearns, Benjamin Brown, Joshua S. Page.  
Representative, Alonzo A. Carr, of Ashby.
1874. Moderator, Albert L. Fessenden; Clerk, Christopher Gates. Selectmen—Charles Osgood, Eliot Moore, Ephraim S. Wilder.  
Representative, Edwin A. Spaulding, of Townsend.
1875. Moderator, Albert L. Fessenden; Clerk, Christopher Gates. Selectmen—Charles Osgood, Ephraim S. Wilder, George A. Upton.  
Representative, Samuel Longley, of Shirley.
1876. Moderator, Ithamar B. Sawtelle; Clerk, Christopher Gates. Selectmen—Ephraim S. Wilder, Abel G. Stearns, Eugene R. Kilbourn.  
Representative, Alfred M. Adams, of Townsend.\*

\* In 1876, Ayer, Ashby, Shirley and Townsend, constituted one representative district.





1877. Moderator, Ithamar B. Sawtelle; Clerk, Christopher Gates. Selectmen—Abel G. Stearns, Benjamin Brown, Benjamin Heneey.  
Representative, George V. Barrett, of Ayer.
1878. Moderator, Ithamar B. Sawtelle; Clerk, William P. Taylor. Selectmen—Abel G. Stearns, Benjamin Brown, Edwin A. Spaulding.

The following is a list of the Justices of the Peace, in Townsend, since its incorporation in 1732:—

JOHN STEVENS,	HIRAM WALCOTT,
ISRAEL HOBART,	SAMUEL JENKINS,
JAMES LOCKE,	FREDERICK A. WORCESTER,
DANIEL ADAMS,	LEVI STEARNS,
ISAAC MULLIKIN,	JAMES N. TUCKER,
JOSIAH RICHARDSON,	NOAH BALL,
SAMUEL BROOKS,	HENRY SCEVA,
AARON WARREN,	HARTWELL GRAHAM,
WALTER HASTINGS,	EPHRAIM S. WILDER,
SHOBAL C. ALLEN,	STILLMAN HAYNES,
RICHARD WARNER,	ITHAMAR B. SAWTELLE,
LEVI SHERWIN,	ALBERT HOWE,
AARON KEYES,	GEORGE TAFT.

The town, in the choice of its officers, especially during the early part of its existence, invariably put the right men in the right place. For example, in 1735, the town "chose Capt. John Stevens to appear at the General Court to get the lands subjected," that is, have a law passed whereby non-residents' land should be taxed. "Voted that he shall ask the Honorable Court for two pence an acre for the first year, and one penny for the next two years." John Stevens was a field surveyor, and had a large acquaintance in Middlesex county.



The court granted the request of the town, and for a long time the tax on non-residents' lands was a penny an acre. The payers of this tax, living in the oldest settled towns in the province, were men of wealth, and some of them were members of the Assembly, which acceded to the request of the town, made through Capt. Stevens. Thirty pounds of the penny acre "rait" were appropriated "toward finishing some part of the meeting house."

In 1738, "Voted that Capt. John Stevens appear in the name and behalf of the town, to desire of the town of Groton, that the bridge over the great river, in said town, be forthwith rebuilt, or upon their refusal to make application at Quarter Sessions next to be holden at Concord, that a county road may forthwith be laid out through Groton."

For a time, this was delayed; but the Townsend people were determined to have a county road laid out from this town to Groton, which would require a bridge over the Nashua, where the Fitch bridge now stands. James Locke, Jr., with suitable assistance, surveyed a route for this road, and drew a plan of it, which was presented to the Court. (This plan may now be seen in the office of the Secretary of State, volume 4, page 51, ancient plans and maps.) A county road, according to the plan, was ordered by the Court. Groton felt aggrieved because the town was obliged to build and maintain so many bridges, and claimed that Townsend should be compelled to bear one-half of the expense of the bridge, according to Locke's survey, which was greatly for the benefit of Townsend.\*

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\* Butler's history of Groton, page 55.



Groton had as many bridges over the Nashua, in 1751, as at the present time, and in nearly the same places. The present road between Townsend and Groton, after entering the limits of the town of Pepperell, is situated further north than the one surveyed and accepted for the county road, at that time, which is now discontinued. Considerable feeling was manifested between the citizens of the two towns. The people of Townsend accomplished their object, whether justly or not, through the adroit management of two or three sharp men.

It appears that wild animals, either ferocious or timid, were not numerous here, when the town was settled. The bear and the wolf had receded from the sound of the woodman's axe. Occasionally one of these animals would make a raid on the flocks and herds. Eldad Bailey, a truthful old gentleman, now eighty-seven years old, says that he saw Capt. Zacheriah Hildreth shoot a bear near his (Mr. Bailey's) house, when he was a boy. The animal had a piece of a log chain-link in his body, which he probably received from the gun of an Ashby man who shot at him with that ammunition, a considerable time previous to his capture. Deer in pairs, and in small herds, were seen at times. An effort was made, for a long time, to protect these animals from the pitiless marksmen. Two officers were annually chosen, called deer-reeves, whose duty it was to inform if any one molested the deer at certain times during the year, and to assist in punishing the offenders against the regulation of the town concerning that animal.



In 1734, the town chose three hog-reeves. The duty of these officers was to take care of the hogs, which were allowed to run at large for more than eighty years after the incorporation of the town. The hogs "were rung," as it was called; that is, a piece of wire was put through the upper part of the hog's snout, bent in the form of a ring, and twisted together at the ends. When the creature commenced subsoiling, the wire would cause pain and prevent the operation. The animals were prevented from going through fences, by a wooden yoke. If the citizens neglected to put this regalia on their porcine workmen, the hog-reeves were obliged to do it for them for which a regular fee was allowed. A little mirth always attended the election of these officers. The three latest married men were sure to be chosen on this board. No one ever became angry, or considered himself insulted, by being *honored* with the office, but patiently waited to see how much fun he could have with his successors.

During the time that the town constituted one parish, tithing-men were chosen, at each annual town meeting, whose duty it was to see that the Sabbath was properly observed, and particularly that people attended public worship on that day. At the present day, and for the last twenty-five years, the tithing-men of Townsend have been elected from that class of persons who seldom or never attend sanctuary services, or trouble themselves, in the least, about what is done on the Sabbath day.





## CHAPTER XVI.

### MARRIAGES.

Marriages of Townsend People from the Incorporation of the Town  
to the Present Time.

The following account of the marriages of Townsend people was drawn from various sources and different records. It contains every marriage, of which there is any record to be found, performed within the first hundred years after the incorporation of the town. The records made by the Rev. Mr. Hemenway concerning baptisms are very full, but the names of many parties joined in wedlock by him, are not on record. Mr. Dix and Mr. Palmer have both left a complete record of the marriages performed by them. The orthography of the christian names has been preserved, so that Rebecca, Sibyl, and other names, will be found spelled differently. Should this chapter appear too long to the reader, let it be borne in mind that marriage is the key to domestic life. Perhaps genealogists yet unborn will run it over with interest.

Marriages performed by Rev. Phineas Hemenway :

1737. January 4, Thomas Hadley, Townsend, Sarah  
Wheeler, Townsend.

— — — Joshua Wheeler, Townsend, Mehitabel  
Hadley, Groton.



1738. March 1, Jonathan Stevens, Townsend, Sarah Sartell, Groton.  
 May 24, Timothy Whitney, Townsend, Submit Parker, Groton.  
 September 15, Nathaniel Richardson, Townsend, Elizabeth Stevens, Chelmsford.  
 ——— Samuel Wheeler, Townsend, Ruth Wheeler, Lancaster.
1739. June 6, John Brown, Townsend, Mary Stevens, Townsend.
1741. December 2, Zacheriah Emery, Townsend, Esther Stevens, Townsend.
1742. June 23, Jonas Woolson, New Ipswich, N. H., Susanna Wallis, Townsend.  
 September 14, John Coffran, Suncook, N. H., Margaret Waugh, Townsend.
1743. March 1, Isaac Farrar, Townsend, Sarah Brooks, Townsend.  
 March 1, Daniel Adams, Townsend, Keziah Brooks, Townsend.
1745. September 3, Benjamin King, Townsend, Sarah Taylor, Townsend.  
 March 19, Seth Brooks, Townsend, Elizabeth Stevens, Townsend.
1746. December 16, David Sloan, Townsend, Lydia Melvin, Townsend.
1749. December 5, William Richee, Peterborough, N. H., Mary Waugh, Townsend.  
 June 22, Joseph Rumrill, Townsend, Lucy Stevens, Townsend.
1750. December 13, William Stevens, Townsend, Sybil Farnsworth, Groton.  
 December 13, Jonas Stevens, Townsend, Ruth Farrar, Concord.  
 December 15, Jonah Farwell, Groton, Lydia Farnsworth, Groton.



1751. December 26, John Robb, Peterborough, N. H.,  
Elizabeth Creiton, Townsend.
1752. January 9, John Avery, Townsend, Mary Farnsworth, Groton.
1753. March 27, Samuel Manning, Jr., Townsend,  
Abiza Avery, Townsend.
- June 27, Jonathan Patt, Townsend, Sarah Hosley,  
Townsend.
1754. January 17, William Clark, Jr., Townsend, Sarah  
Locke, Townsend.
- February 14, John Chandler, New Ipswich, N. H.,  
Lydia Taylor, Townsend.
1756. December 14, Joseph Baldwin, Townsend, Mary  
Searles, Townsend.
1757. May 30, Samuel Lawrence, No. 1, Mary Avery,  
Townsend.
- March 24, Andrew Spaulding, New Ipswich,  
N. H., Abigail Martyn, Pepperell.
- April 27, Daniel Taylor, Townsend, Elizabeth  
Cummings, Dunstable.
- December 22, Jonathan Crosby, 3d, New Ipswich,  
N. H., Lydia Chandler, Westford.
1758. March 30, Andrew Searles, Townsend, Elenor  
Heald, Townsend.
- April 20, Josiah Robbins, Townsend, Hannah  
Eams, Hollis, N. H.
- May 24, Peter Heald, Sliptown, Sarah Belcher,  
Townsend.
- September 25, Nathaniel Sartell, Townsend,  
Katherine Hemenway, Townsend.
- November 23, Ebenezer Hemenway, Dorchester  
Canada, Elizabeth Moor, Dorchester Canada.
- December 14, John Stevens, Hollis, N. H.,  
Mary Boson, Townsend.



1759. March 15, Oliver Heywood, Townsend, Anna Taylor, Townsend.  
 March 21, Jeremiah Ball, Townsend, Mary Stevens, Townsend.  
 May 24, Ebenezer Giles, Townsend, Esther Baldwin, Townsend.  
 November 6, John Wallis, Jr., Townsend, Martha Pudney, New Ipswich, N. H.  
 December 14, Jason Russell, Harvard, Elizabeth Farwell, Townsend.  
 1760. January 8, Thomas Heald, New Ipswich, N. H., Sybel Adams, New Ipswich, N. H.  
 February 6, John Dutton, New Ipswich, N. H., Susanna Ball, Townsend.  
 April 22, Isaac Wallis, Townsend, Jane Russell, Townsend.

These are all the marriages on record, performed by Rev. Mr. Hemenway. Twelve leaves have been cut out of the first book of church records, apparently with some dull instrument, and in a very rough manner. Whether these leaves contained marriage records is unknown, but the presumption is that they did, for the ministers of those times kept these records.

Marriages performed by Rev. Samuel Dix :—

1761. March 4, Richard Richardson, Townsend, Elizabeth Barrett, Townsend,  
 July 13, David Holden, Townsend, Sarah Hemenway, Townsend.  
 July 22, Samuel Sanderson, Townsend, Lydia Boynton, Townsend.  
 October 20, Mr. David Taylor, Concord, Mrs. Sarah Hemenway, Townsend.  
 November 7, John Patt, Townsend, Bathsheba Wood, Townsend.





1762. April 12, Ephraim Warren, Townsend, Sarah Keazer, Groton.  
August 26, Timothy Chandler, Townsend, Mary Walker, Pepperell.
1763. January 8, Alexander McIntosh, Milestrip, N. H., Mary Graham, Townsend.  
February 16, Ebenezer Baldwin, Townsend, Mary Hubbard, Townsend.  
October 6, Benjamin Ball, Townsend, Rachel Boynton, Townsend.  
December 8, Ebenezer Albee, Townsend, Rachel Avery, Townsend.
1764. February 21, Josiah Robbins, No. 1, Mary Campbell, Townsend.  
April 3, Stephen Hildreth, Westford, Esther Manning, Townsend.  
May 29, Samuel Douglass, Slip Town, N. H., Molly Conant, Townsend.  
June 15, John Nichols, Lancaster, Silence Stow, Townsend.  
December 19, Levi Whitney, Townsend, Rebecca Clark, Townsend.  
December 19, William Barrett, No. 1, Sarah Robbins, No. 1.
1765. January 28, Robert Waugh, New Ipswich, N. H., Elizabeth White, Townsend.  
April 12, Benjamin Wheeler, Pepperell, Hannah Davis, Townsend.  
June 13, David Brown, Groton, Lydia Stevens, Townsend.  
June 13, Nathan Conant, Townsend, Betty Stevens, Townsend.  
December 5, Benjamin Spaulding, Townsend, Mary Heald, Townsend.  
December 11, John Swallow, No. 1, Molly Hall, No. 1.



1765. December 11, John Jetts, No. 1, Lois Lawrence,  
No. 1.  
— — James Stevens, Jr., Townsend, Martha  
Brooks, New Ipswich, N. H.
1766. November 13, Abraham Gates, Townsend, Sus-  
sanna Whittimore, Dunstable.  
December 25, John Graham, Townsend, Margaret  
Sloan, Townsend.
1767. December 1, Benjamin Jetts, No. 1, Martha  
Sloan, Townsend.  
December 8, Robert Campbell, Jr., Townsend,  
Elizabeth Waugh, Townsend.
1768. — — Abijah Wyman, Ashby, Betty Stearns,  
Ashby.  
— — Eldad Spafford, Townsend, Lucy  
Spaulding, Townsend.  
December 22, Peter Butterfield, Townsend,  
Hannah Butrick, Townsend.
1769. January 5, Abijah Joslin, Ashburnham, Keziab  
Farrar, Townsend.  
January 11, Lemuel Patt, Townsend, Hannah  
Butterfield, Townsend.  
February 1, Joseph Blood, Mason, N. H., Ruth  
Dunster, Mason, N. H.  
February 14, Joseph Davis, Ashby, Sarah Camp-  
bell, Townsend.  
June 28, William Withington, Ashby, Martha  
Locke, Ashby.  
November —, Benjamin Wilson, Townsend, Dinah  
Baldwin, Townsend.  
December 19, David Baldwin, Pepperell, Elizabeth  
Boynton, Townsend.  
December 21, James Campbell, Townsend,  
Rebeckah Adams, Townsend.
1770. November —, Thomas Hubbard, Townsend,  
Hannah Conant, Townsend.



1771. May 30, Edmund Tarbold, Mason, N. H., Mary Hildreth, Townsend.
- July 10, Jonathan Robbins, Chelmsford, Elizabeth Emery, Townsend.
- August 15, John Conant, Townsend, Sarah Farrar, Townsend.
- September 17, Henry Price, Esq., Townsend, Lydia Randall, Townsend.
- September 24, Thomas Eaton, Townsend, Lucy Davis, Townsend.
- October 17, Seth Robbins, Mason, N. H., Sarah Scripture, Mason, N. H.
- December 24, Nathaniel Bowers, Jr., Pepperell, Sarah Sartell, Townsend.
1772. February 6, Andrew Ross, Mason, N. H., Rebeckah Robbins, Mason, N. H.
- February 6, Joseph Giles, Townsend, Mary Whitney, Townsend.
- February 7, Jonathan Darby, Ashby, Mahitabel Wheeler, Ashby.
- May 20, James Hildreth, Townsend, Esther Fletcher, Westford.
- May 21, Daniel Adams, Jr., Townsend, Lydia Taylor, Townsend.
- July 8, John Lawrence, Mason, N. H., Letie Holden, Mason, N. H.
- August 20, Benjamin Wilson, Townsend, Bathsheba Patts, Townsend.
- September 10, Jason Williams, Cambridge, Abigail Albee, Townsend.
- — John Cragin, Temple, Sarah Spaulding, Townsend.
- — John Meeds, Ashby, Mary Winship, Ashby.
- December —, Aaron Eaton, Ashby, Mary Wheeler, Ashby.



1773. January 19, Jotham White, Townsend, Katherine Read, Townsend.  
February 4, Nathan Conant, Townsend, Esther Emery, Townsend.  
May 20, Jacob Upton, Ashby, Mary Clarke, Townsend.  
October 14, Phineas Hemenway, Groton, Elizabeth Taylor, Groton.
1774. February 23, David Pierce, Billerica, Sarah Stevens, Townsend.  
December 20, Asa Heald, Townsend, Rebeckah Merrill, Townsend.
1775. March 30, Aaron Scott, Townsend, Elizabeth Wallis, Townsend.  
April 13, Thaddeus Smith, Ashby, Saleme Jones.  
October —, Jonas Fitch, Pepperell, Annie Shattuck, Pepperell.  
November 9, Joseph Adams, ———, Lucy Blood, Pepperell.
1776. February 15, Elijah Shattuck, Pepperell, Olive Read, Pepperell.  
February 15, Abijah Mosier, Pepperell, Hannah Varnum, Pepperell.  
February 15, Oliver Proctor, Jr., Townsend, Mary Manning, Billerica.  
February 29, Simeon Blanchard, New Ipswich, N. H., Elizabeth Shattuck, Pepperell.  
—— — James Nutting, ———, Hepsibah Rolf, Pepperell.  
April —, Abel Shattuck, Pepperell, Hannah Hobart, Groton.  
May 8, Jedediah Jewett, Pepperell, Rachel Blood, Pepperell.  
July 10, Eleazer Butterfield, Townsend, Mary Bradstreet, Townsend.  
July 16, Abner Brooks, Townsend, Anne Hobart, Townsend.





1776. April 3, Eleazer Shattuck, Pepperell, Mary Blood, Pepperell.  
 October 28, William Blood, Townsend, Abigail Holt, Townsend.  
 November 21, Andrew Mitchel, Lunenburg, Roxanna McDonald, Hollis, N. H.  
 December 3, Joseph Cutter, Jaffrey, N. H., Rachel Hobart, Pepperell.  
 December 19, Nehemiah Tarbell, Groton, Martha Dodge, Groton.
1777. March —, James Sloan, Townsend, Beulah Wilson, Townsend.  
 April 2, Samuel Nevers, Woburn, Anna Wyman, Townsend.  
 April 22, Thomas Warren, Jr., Townsend, Perses Heald, Townsend.  
 April 29, Robert Ames, Groton, Mrs. Susanna Warren, Groton.  
 April 29, William Stevens, Townsend, Abigail Green, Townsend.  
 May 6, Joseph Cummings, Swansea, N. H., Lucy Warren, Groton.  
 May 7, Josiah Spaulding, Westford, Jemima Shattuck, Pepperell.  
 May 29, Joseph Heald, Pepperell, Elizabeth Hobart, Pepperell.  
 May 29, Simon Green, Pepperell, Deborah Woods, Pepperell.  
 June 3, Solomon Pearse, Townsend, Eunice Farrar, Townsend.  
 June 24, Phinehas Astan, Raby, N. H., Elizabeth Spaulding, Townsend.  
 September 1, Zachariah Hildreth, Townsend, Elizabeth Keyes, Westford.  
 September 29, John Clark, Townsend, Dorcas Wyman, Townsend.  
 October 7, Moses Warren, Townsend, Martha Reed, Townsend.



1777. October 14, Abel Parker, Pepperell, Edē Jewett, Pepperell.  
November 26, Ebenezer Davis, Rindge, Mariah Whitney, Pepperell.  
December 24, Jeremiah Crosby, Pepperell, Elizabeth Gilson, Pepperell.  
December 25, Samuel Cole, Falmouth, Mary Pearse, Pepperell.  
December 26, Jacob Baldwin, Jr., Townsend, Elizabeth Holt, Townsend.
1778. January 14, Elijah Wyman, Townsend, Abigail Wetherby, Pepperell.  
February 24, Samuel Stone, Jr., Ashby, Sarah Wallis, Townsend.  
February 26, David Baldwin, Pepperell, Elizabeth Blood, Pepperell.  
March 16, John Parker, ———, Abigail Blood, Pepperell.  
May 7, Daniel Spaulding, Townsend, Rebeckah Osgood, Raby, N. H.  
May 7, Nathaniel Sartell, Pepperell, Abigail Laughton, Pepperell.  
May 26, John Farwell, Harvard, Mrs. Sarah Warren, Townsend.  
July —, Benjamin Lawrence, Jr., Groton, Rebekah Woods, Groton.  
July 16, Benjamin Adams, Townsend, Mary Stone, Ashby.  
October 29, Leonard Foster, Pepperell, Lucy Wetherbee, Pepperell.  
December 7, Rev. Nehemiah Porter, Ashfield, Mrs. Elizabeth Newell, Townsend.
1779. January 21, Benjamin Hobart, Groton, Elizabeth Brooks, Townsend.  
January 28, Jacob Blodgett, Mason, N. H., Sarah Taylor, Townsend.  
January 29, Moses Shattuck, Pepperell, Abigail Woods, Pepperell.



1779. February 11, Moses Blood, Pepperell, Abigail Shattuck, Pepperell.
- March 4, Eleazar Davis, Townsend, Martha Stevens, Townsend.
- March 4, Josiah Davis, Townsend, Sarah Sawtell, Townsend.
- May 27, Job Brooks, Temple, Sarah Hildreth, Townsend.
- June 17, Isaac Warren, Groton, Eunice Farnsworth, Groton.
- —, Joseph Woods, — —, Mary Waugh, Townsend.
1780. March 9, Henry Turner, Townsend, Abigail Scott, Townsend.
- May —, Benjamin Brooks, 3d, Townsend, Emmy Richardson, Townsend.
- June —, Ephraim Warren, 3d, Townsend, Sarah Proctor, Townsend.
- July 13, Oliver Green, Pepperell, Dorothy Hildreth, Townsend.
- July 13, Benjamin Sartell, Townsend, Sybil Patt. Townsend.
- November 13, Levi Whitney, Shrewsbury, Mrs. Lydia Price, Townsend.
- December 28, Jonathan Dix, Townsend, Mercy Wilson, Townsend.
1781. February 1, Hinksman Warren, Townsend, Esther Taylor, Townsend.
- February 8, Daniel Clark, Townsend, Sarah Robbins, Carlisle.
- February 13, John Hosley, Pepperell, Sarah Woods, Pepperell.
- February 22, Josiah Seward, Raby, N. H., Sarah Osgood, Raby, N. H.
- March 22, Caleb Blood, 3d, Groton, Hephzibah Jewett, Pepperell.



1781. April 3, Jonathan Coneck, Townsend, Zervia Wheelock, Townsend.
- June 1, Dr. Samuel Hosley, Townsend, Mary Farrar, Townsend.
- June 21, Elijah Dodge, Townsend, Elizabeth Sartell, Townsend.
- August 23, Levi Proctor, Carlisle, Sarah Emery, Townsend.
- September 20, Jonathan Barron, Pepperell, Rebekah Powers, Pepperell.
- October 4, Israel Sloan, Townsend, Rebekah Wilson, Townsend.
- December 10, Josiah Richardson, Townsend, Abigail Dix, Townsend.
- December 13, John S. Frary, Swansay, N. H., Joanna Wyman, Swansay, N. H.
- December 13, Daniel Holt, Jr., Townsend, Mary Butterfield, Townsend.
- December 13, Jonathan Pearse, Townsend, Hannah Perham, Townsend.
1782. January 8, Nehemiah Blood, Pepperell, Abigail Sartell, Townsend.
- January 31, Isaac Kidder, Townsend, Susanna Sherwin, Townsend.
- March 7, Zacheus Witt, Jaffrey, N. H., Hannah Sartell, Townsend.
- March 7, George Woodward, Raby, N. H., Jane Wallis, Raby, N. H.
- May —, Elias Barron, Concord, Sarah Burge, Townsend.
- —, John Sherwin, Townsend, Keziah Adams, Townsend.
- May 30, David Hall, Mason, N. H., Margaret Graham, Townsend.
- June 13, Seth Johnson, Townsend, Betty Brown, Townsend.
- June 19, Daniel Conant, Townsend, Millecent Farrar, Townsend.





1782. July 2, Jonas Campbell, Townsend, Ruth Colburn, Townsend.
- July 4, Daniel Campbell, Townsend, Lucy Emery, Townsend.
- July 25, James Withy, Jr., Mason, N. H., Anna Brown, Mason, N. H.
- August 12, Jacob Wetherby, Mason, N. H., Grace Pattin, Raby, N. H.
- November 7, Benjamin Barrett, Mason, N. H., Hannah Scripture, Mason, N. H.
- —, Nathaniel Healy, Worcester, Lois Maynard, Townsend.
- —, Enoch Cummings, Swanzey, N. H., Sarah Warren, Townsend.
- December 2, Asa Merrill, Townsend, Esther Warren, Townsend.
- December 10, Jonathan Jeffs, Townsend, Lydia Hosley, Pepperell.
- —, Samuel Buttrick, Townsend, Mrs. Sarah Richardson, Townsend.
1783. February 12, Jonathan Patts, Jr., Townsend, Rebekah Town, New Ipswich, N. H.
- March 4, Isaac Wallis, Jr., Townsend, Rebekah Farrar, Townsend.
- April 29, Abel Foster, Townsend, Mary Wood, Townsend.
- May 1, John Wright, Jr., Mason, N. H., Hannah Russell, Raby, N. H.
- May 6, Joseph Rumrill, Jr., Townsend, Abigail Lampson, Townsend.
- September 1, Jesse Maynard, Townsend, Exercise Brown, Townsend.
- September 8, Samuel Scripture, Jr., Mason, N. H., Elizabeth Barrett, Mason, N. H.
- October 1, Jedediah Jewett, Pepperell, Mrs. Mary Baldwin, Townsend.
- October 1, Benjamin Ball, Townsend, Mary Farrar, Townsend.



1783. November 25, Abraham Gates, Ashby, Lucy Rumrill, Townsend.
- November 25, Nathaniel Smith, Jr., Mason, N. H., Mary Barrett, Mason, N. H.
- December 11, Josiah Barnes, Concord, Lucy Hildreth, Townsend.
- —, Jonathan Bailey Townsend, Sarah Holt, Townsend.
- December 25, James Proctor, Jr., Westford, Esther Wright, Westford.
1784. May 20, Abner Adams, Townsend, Molly Sartell, Townsend.
- May 20, John Stevens, Jr., Townsend, Sarah Waugh, Townsend.
- June 30, Daniel Adams, Townsend, Mrs. Sarah Phelps, Lancaster.
- August 19, Josiah Richardson, Townsend, Susanna Wallis, Townsend.
- September 16, Daniel Lawrence, Townsend, Lucy Roe, Townsend.
- November 12, John Blood, Pepperell, Olive Ball, Townsend.
1785. February 7, Joseph Barrett, Mason, N. H., Jane Campbell, Townsend.
- February 22, Ephraim Lamson, Townsend, Mary Stevens, Townsend.
- May 12, Amos Blood, Pepperell, Sarah Blood, Pepperell.
- —, Daniel Brown, Townsend, Mary Ball, Townsend.
- October 31, Samuel Dix, Jr., Townsend, Chloe Dix, Reading.
- December 15, Jonathan Holt, Townsend, Hannah Adams, Townsend.
- December 15, Joseph Felt, Packersfield, Elizabeth Spafford, Townsend.



1786. January —, John Atwell, Jr., Hollis, N. H.,  
Rebekah Lawrence. ———.

—— —, Jesse Baldwin, Townsend, Chloe Gas-  
sett, Townsend.

February 9, Samuel Stevens, Lancaster, Mary  
Wallace, Townsend.

—— —, Samuel Searle, Townsend, Hannah  
Butterfield, Townsend.

March 4, Stephen Warren, Townsend, Mary  
Giles, Townsend.

June 22, Elisha Sanders, Lunenburg, Patty Duns-  
moor, Lunenburg.

June 26, Ebenezer Ball, Jr., Townsend, Hannah  
Smith, Townsend.

November 30, Isaac Farrar, Jr., Townsend,  
Hannah Dix, Townsend.

December 14, Edward Tarble, Mason, N. H.,  
Rachel Hildreth, Townsend.

December 20, Phinchas Baldwin, Townsend,  
Sarah Searl, Townsend.

1787. January 1, Edward Richards, Rockingham, Vt.,  
Eunice Locke, Townsend.

February 1, Noah Hardy, Packersfield, Sarah  
Spafford, Townsend.

—— —, Henry Jeffs, Townsend, Elizabeth  
Waugh, Townsend.

February 7, William Weston, Townsend, Rebekah  
Ball, Townsend.

March 1, William Wallace, Townsend, Polly  
Price, Townsend.

March 15, John Giles, Townsend, Suscy Baldwin,  
Townsend.

March 20, William Elliott, Mason, N. H.,  
Rebekah Hildreth, Townsend.

March 22, Nathaniel Shattuck, Pepperell, Hannah  
Ball, Townsend.



1787. June 14, William Stacy, Townsend, Hannah Stevens, Townsend.
- — —, John Waugh, Jr., Townsend, Esther Spaulding, Townsend.
- October 4, Ebenezer Ball, Jr., Townsend, Phebe Wesson, Townsend.
- November 8, James Sloan, Townsend, Molly Searl, Townsend.
1788. — — —, John Emerson, Townsend, Keziah Brooks, Townsend.
- February 5, James Pratt, Halifax, Sarah Giles, Townsend.
- February 7, Benjamin Wallis, Ashby, Betsey Walker, Ashby.
- — —, Josiah Bright, Ashby, Hepsy Rice, Ashby.
- April 16, Jesse Maynard, Townsend, Sarah Richards, Townsend.
- April 26, George Farrar, Townsend, Rebekah Price, Townsend.
- October 30, Benjamin Wellington, Ashby, Mary Hill, Ashby.
- November 27, Jonathan Pearse, Townsend, Esther Spaulding, Townsend.
- November 27, John Smith, Townsend, Hannah Shattuck, Townsend.
- November 27, John Gilson, Monkton, Lucy Darby, Ashby.
- December 16, Joseph Heywood, Chelmsford, Susannah Ball, Chelmsford.
1789. — — —, Asa Stevens, Townsend, Sarah Hodgman, Ashby.
- — —, Joseph Pingrey, Salisbury, N. H., Sarah Sanders, Ashby.
- February 7, David Spafford, Townsend, Lucy Sherwin, Townsend.
- March 19, Benjamin Spaulding, Townsend, Sybil Wallis, Townsend.





1789. April —, Asa Heald, Townsend, Jerusha Carter, Townsend.  
May 6, John Giles, Townsend, Mary Adams, Raby, N. H.  
May 7, Robert Searl, Townsend, Azubah Butterfield, Townsend.  
May 14, Samuel Brooks, Townsend, Sarah Phelps, Townsend.  
— —, Elijah Haughton, Ashby, Sarah Ballard, Townsend.  
October 22, Thomas Powers, Holles, N. H., Mrs. Jane Sloan, Townsend.
1790. February 2, Jonathan Taylor, Heath, Nancy Phelps, Townsend.  
February 18, Josiah Whitney, Waltham, Mary Barrett, Ashby.  
February 25, Asa Whitney, Townsend, Mary Wallis, Townsend.  
March 2, David Petts, Townsend, Nabby Flagg, Townsend.  
April 5, Moses Burge, Townsend, Betty Stacy, Townsend.  
May 25, William Johnson, ———, Lucy Barrett, Ashby.  
May 25, Richard Warner, Townsend, Hannah Wheeler, Pepperell.  
June 30, John E. Stone, Ashby, Dorcas Lawrence, Ashby.  
October 21, James Searl, Townsend, Sally Patten, Raby, N. H.  
November 25, Jabez Green, Townsend, Abigail Hildreth, Townsend.  
November 27, Samuel Buttrick, Weston, Hannah Bemis, Weston.  
December 23, William Stevens, Townsend, Rachel Ball, Townsend.  
— —, Abel Green, Raby, N. H., Hannah Farrar, Townsend.



1791. February 2, Rev. Ebenezer Hill, Mason, N. H.,  
Polly Boynton, ———.

February 3, Benjamin Hobart, Townsend, Betty  
Woods, Townsend.

February 17, Nathaniel Bailey, Jr., Townsend,  
Molly Baldwin, Townsend.

March 3, Nathan Conant, Jr., Townsend, Mary  
Dix, Townsend.

March 10, Perin Richards, Townsend, Anna  
Wallis, Townsend.

March 16, Levi Green, Ashby, Patty Earl, Ashby.

May 25, Joseph Walker, Ashby, Ruth Jenkins,  
Townsend.

June 13, Lemuel Petts, Jr., Townsend, Milly  
Wood, Pepperell.

July 14, Asa Walker, Ashby, Alice Clark, Ashby.

September 22, David Wallace, Townsend, Betty  
Richardson, Townsend.

October 12, Abijah Momm, Townsend, Esther  
Giles, Townsend.

November —, Hezekiah Winn, Chelmsford, Bath-  
sheba Ball, Townsend.

1792. January 15, Oliver Lawrence, Ashby, Mercy  
Worcester, Ashby.

January 15, Joseph Rumrill, Jr., Townsend, Re-  
bekah Lamson, Townsend.

January 17, John Rice, Ashby, Rebekah Barrett,  
Ashby.

February 14, Samuel Jenkins, Townsend, Eliza-  
beth Sanders, Townsend.

February 16, Parpoint Kendall, Ashby, Sarah  
Damon, Ashby.

February 23, John Conant, Newton, Rachel Giles,  
Townsend.

February 29, Archelaus Adams, Jr., Townsend,  
Elizabeth Manning, Townsend.



1792. March 22, Reuben Stevens, Groton, Thankfull Rumrill, Townsend.
- April 25, Phineas Holden, Townsend, Mary Craig, Townsend.
- June 12, Isaac Farrar, Townsend, Mrs. Mary Dix, Mason, N. H.
- June 28, Joseph Adams, Townsend, Mary Brooks, Townsend.
- June 28, Benjamin Dix, Townsend, Polly Phelps, Townsend.
- August 15, Parker Weatherbee, Townsend, Rhoda Adams, Groton.
- August 30, Jonathan Roll, Ashby, Phebe Derby, Ashby.
- September 11, Samuel Hodgman, Raby, N. H., Phene Lawrence, Townsend.
- October 10, David Lawrence, Townsend, Kezia Williams, Raby, N. H.
- November 29, Peter Nutting, Mason, Polly Baldwin, Townsend.
1793. February 12, Lieut. John Sharin, Townsend, Eunice Farwell, Townsend.
- February 22, Samuel Adams, Townsend, Katy Lawrence, Townsend.
- February 22, Josiah Spaulding, Norridgewock, Me., Sybil Spaulding, Townsend.
- February 28, Joseph Jepson, Townsend, Jane Graham, Townsend.
- March 27, Elisha Jones, Ashby, Persia Taylor, Ashby.
- April 2, John Mason, Townsend, Phene Shipley, Pepperell.
- May 2, Azariah P. Sherwin, Townsend, Sally Kidder, Townsend.
- May 9, Oliver Wetherbee, Townsend, Sarah Stone, Townsend.
- May 20, William Manning, Townsend, Hannah White, Townsend.



1793. May 30, Ebenezer Hodgman, Ashby, Lovisa Newton, Ashby.  
June 27, John L. Hodgman, Townsend, Esther Baldwin, Townsend.  
September 5, Isaac Giles, Townsend, Jane Wallis, Townsend.  
September 19, Jonathan Shattuck, 3d, Pepperell, Elizabeth Giles, Townsend.  
October 3, Jonathan Wallis, Jr., Townsend, Abigail Wyman, Townsend.  
October 31, John Conant, Jr., Townsend, Rebekah Wallis, Townsend.
1794. January 1, Phineas Bennett, Ashby, Mrs. Elizabeth Buttrick, Ashby.  
January 28, Oliver Wellington, Ashby, Rachel March, Ashby.  
January 28, Josiah Gregory, Ashby, Hannah Damon, Ashby.  
January 30, John Colburn, Townsend, Kezia Campbell, Raby, N. H.  
February 4, Eliab Going, Lunenburg, Abigail Warren, Townsend.  
February 6, Benjamin Abbot, Lansingburg, N. Y., Katy Prat, Townsend.  
February 6, Bazaleel Newton, Jr., Ashby, Patty Walker, Ashby.  
February 6, Isaac Walker, Ashby, Rebecca Wallis, Ashby.  
July 2, Peter Lawrence, Ashby, Mary S. Spaulding, Townsend.  
August 28, Amos Whitney Dix, Townsend, Sally Proctor, Townsend.  
October 30, Jonathan Sanderson, Lunenburg, Mahitabel Spafford, Townsend.  
December 4, John Heald, Jr., Shirley, Molly Gaschet, Townsend.  
December 9, Lawrence Jests, Mason, N. H., Lydia Boynton, Townsend.





1795. February 17, Solomon Jewett, Pepperell, Phebe Adams, Townsend.  
April 23, Silas Shattuck, Townsend, Sally Bailey, Townsend.  
May 28, Benjamin Hodgman, Jr., Ashby, Polly Stevens, Townsend.  
June 30, Peter Adams, Townsend, Lucy Gibson, Townsend.  
August 6, Solomon Stevens, Jr., Townsend, Elizabeth Sanders, Townsend.  
August 6, William Parks, Townsend, Polly Stone, Townsend.  
November 19, Reuben Davis, Ashby, Joanna Hildreth, Townsend.  
November 24, Boaz Brown, Townsend, Hannah Spaulding, Townsend.  
December 3, Jonathan Perry, Townsend, Phene Hodgman, Townsend.  
December 10, Samuel Fales, Townsend, Polly McLain, Townsend.
1796. February 18, Edward Knight, Worcester, Sarah Jenkins, Townsend.  
March 9, John Petts, Townsend, Nancy Brooks, Townsend.  
April 19, Bartholemew Ballard, Townsend, Rusha Lawrence, Ashby.  
April 23, William Sanders, Townsend, Patty Stevens, Townsend.  
May 22, David Lock, Jr., Ashby, Rebekah Wesson, Townsend.  
May 25, Noah Ball, Townsend, Betsey Wesson, Townsend.  
September 21, Asa Walker, Jr., Ashby, Joanna Wesson, Townsend.  
October 27, David Leviston, Townsend, Sarah Adams, Ashby.  
November 10, Abner Adams, Townsend, Sarah Sartell, Townsend.



1796. November 22, Stephen R. Ballard, Plymouth,  
N. H., Betsey Pollard, Ashby.  
December 15, James Adams, Townsend, Sybil  
Gaschett, Townsend.  
December 22, Lieut. Nathan Conant, Townsend,  
Mrs. Hannah Potter, Townsend.  
December 29, Elias Boutell, Townsend, Abigail  
Baldwin, Pepperell.
1797. January 5, Uzziel Withee, Groton, Elizabeth  
Stevens, Townsend.  
January 10, Samuel Bailey, Townsend, Betsey  
Keyes, Townsend.  
January 26, Elijah Wright, Ashby, Levina  
Lawrence, Ashby.  
February 23, Lemuel Shipley, Townsend, Phebe  
Jones, Ashby.  
May 31, Abel Gilson, Milford, N. H., Sally Mace,  
Fitchburg.  
June 6, Abel Taylor, Ashby, Abigail Rice,  
Ashby.  
August 1, Benjamin Spaulding, Jr., Townsend,  
Sybil Sanders, Townsend.

This closes the record of marriages by Rev. Samuel  
Dix, who died the twelfth of the following November.

Marriage performed by Rev. John Bullard :—

1797. December 20, Zacheus Richardson, Townsend,  
Mary Ball, Townsend.

Marriages performed by Daniel Adams, Esq. :—

1797. November 7, Salome Sherwin, Townsend, Beula  
Seaver, Townsend.  
1798. January 2, Jonathan Spaulding, Townsend,  
Hannah Going, Lunenburg.



1798. February 20, David Batchelor, Townsend, Sarah Adams, Townsend.  
 November 13, John Adams, Townsend, Jane Bartlett, Townsend.
1799. September 18, Benjamin Wallace, Townsend, Rebekah Whitney, Townsend.  
 November 24, James Simons, Townsend, Susanna Stevens, Townsend.  
 November 28, James Wallace, Townsend, Betsey Brown, Townsend.

"The church's book of Records," commencing 1800, contains the following marriages, performed by Rev. David Palmer, and recorded by him. Where no place of residence of either party is recorded, the presumption is that they belonged to Townsend. An exact copy of Mr. Palmer's records is here presented: —

1800. February 18, Aaron Fessenden, Nancy Wetherbee.  
 February 19, Hezekiah Richardson, Jr., Anna Farwell, Mason.  
 April 9, Solomon Sanders, Jr., Lydia Sanders.  
 April 24, Levi Sherwin, Hannah Hildreth.  
 April 27, Uriah Searl, Nabby Giles.  
 June 26, Levi Morse, Sarah Davis.  
 August 17, Daniel Adams, Leominster, Nancy Mullikin.  
 September 16, Darius Sherwin, Lucy Kimball.  
 October 5, Joseph Russell, Carlisle, Susanna Giles.  
 November 7, Levi Conant, Eunice Sanders, Lunenburg.
1801. February 4, Levi Richardson, Eunice Weston.  
 February 22, John Fessenden, Betsey Fessenden, Charlestown.  
 March 3, Samuel Miller, Sylvia Keep.



1801. March 15, John Williams, Brookline, Lucy Foster.  
 June 7, Jonathan Wallis, Milley Conant.  
 August 9, Michael Bonditt, Reading, Polly Dix.  
 October 8, James Clark, Packersfield, Betsey Dix.  
 October 11, Samuel Keep, Sarah Conant.  
 December 3, Peter Putnam, Susanna Keep.
1802. February 14, Asa Wallis, Milley Conant.  
 March 11, Benjamin Fessenden, Levina Stevens.  
 March 22, Benjamin Smith, Woburn, Sibyl Turner, Townsend.  
 April 11, Isaac Wallis, Susanna Streeter.  
 May 27, Jonathan Hartwell, Jr., Esther Warren.  
 July 25, Abner Bills, Hannah Campbell.  
 October 14, Abel Spaulding, Lucy Perham Pierce.  
 November 11, Abiel Baldwin, Lucy Gasset.  
 November 15, Stephen Lovejoy, Sally Flint.  
 November 25, George Wilson, New Ipswich, Sally Wallis.  
 November 29, John King, Polly Nutting.
1803. January 18, Jacob Sawyer, Anna Foster.  
 February 21, Luther Spalding, Boston, Betsey Flagg.  
 March 8, Peter Shumway, Oxford, Sarah Spalding.  
 April 28, Silas Kerly, Fitchburg, Mary Holt.  
 May 19, Jonas Farmer, Jr., Hannah Wright.  
 June —, Kendall Gowing, Lunenburg, Polly Flagg.  
 October 9, Putnam Haywood, Melinda Warren.  
 October 16, Thomas Warren, Betsey Conant.  
 November 3, Joel Adams, Polly Stone.  
 November 15, Isaac Bailey, Jaffrey, N. H., Susan Stevens.





1803. December 13, Francis Butterfield, Jane Sanders.  
December 29, Moses Spaulding, Pepperell, Sally Scales.
1804. April 4, Solomon Griswold, Eliza Wallis.  
May 27, Simeon Smith, Boston, Elizabeth Kidder.  
September 2, Robert P. Wood, Hannah Brown.  
October 4, Abel Adams, Hannah Heald.  
November 4, Richard W. Pierce, Sarah Farrar.
1805. February 14, Daniel Warner, Ruth Emery.  
February 21, Isaac Spaulding, Lucy Emery.  
March 5, John Clemons, Hannah Pierce.  
March 7, Joseph Shattuck, Pepperell, Betsey Pierce.  
March 7, Jonathan Holt, Susanna Jenkins.  
May 27, Silvanus Howe, Charlestown, Sally Stone.  
November 4, Abner Austin, Betsey Jewett.  
December 25, Abel Keyes, Sarah Bowers.
1806. January 27, John Pike, Hannah Fessenden.  
April 17, Samuel Scales, Lucy Hildreth.  
May 28, Samuel Prentice, Grafton, Sally Searle Baldwin.  
November 2, Samuel Warner, Hannah Wallis.
1807. January 26, William Davis, Baltimore, Vt., Phebe Sanders.  
February 26, Jonathan Kimball, Waterford, Elizabeth Bowers.  
March 2, William Nay, 3d, Peterborough, Rebekah Foster.  
April 2, John Green, Jr., Pepperell, Fanny Hosley.  
September 17, James Swan, Bradford, N. H., Olive Conant.  
October 1, James Wilder, Hingham, Abigail Sylvester.



1807. October 15, Asa Kendall, Leominster, Lydia Adams.  
 October 29, Daniel Tarbox, Rachel Stevens.  
 November 19, Samuel Russell, Mason, N. H., Martha Carter.  
 November 26, Hezekiah Douglas, Watertown, Elizabeth Davis.
1808. February 16, Edmund Bachelder, Baltimore, Vt., Rachel Bartlett.  
 March 10, John Proctor, Polly Hartwell.  
 March 13, Imla Keep, Susanna Sylvester.  
 April 11, Whitney Farmer, Nancy Scales.  
 April 19, John Bernard, Rachel Warren.  
 May 25, David Hazen, Groton, Jane Turner.  
 May 29, Ebenezer Fletcher, New Ipswich, Sybil Spaulding.  
 September 12, Isaac Sanders, Hannah Sanders.  
 September 15, Jeremiah Ball, Elizabeth Haynes.  
 November 6, James Adams, Nancy Pratt.
1809. November 30, David Emerson, Reading, Selina Gasset.  
 December 21, Abraham Seaver, Lucy Lawrence.  
 December 21, Oliver Reed, Letty Wilson.  
 December 26, Isaac Turner, Esther Spaulding.
1810. January 9, James Emery, Grafton, Vt., Elizabeth Wilder.  
 January 18, George Flint, Molly Sanders.  
 January 18, Jonathan Pierce, Lydia Conant, Pepperell.  
 March 29, Stephen Scales, Patty Hildreth.  
 June 14, James Jaquith, Wilmington, Sarah Blodget.  
 July 15, Nathan Farrar, Betsey Bartlett.  
 September 2, Joel White, Hannah Davis.  
 October 21, Zachariah Hildreth, Hannah Sawtell.



1811. January 14, ——— Austin, Mason, Rebekah Farmer.  
 February —, Joel Prentice, Lucy Scales.  
 February —, David Putnam, Boston, Orpha Scales.  
 April 15, Solomon Fessenden, Hannah Flagg.  
 July —, Benjamin Brooks, Betsey Wallis.  
 September 5, Asa Wyman, Sally Searl.  
 November 21, Isaac Kidder, Lucy Pratt.  
 November 21, Luther Gilbert, Acton, Esther Waugh.  
 December 17, John Emery, Jr., Patty Stone.
1812. January —, John Flint, Betsey Sanders.  
 May 7, James Sanders, Jr., Mary Sanders.  
 July 28, Benj. Reed, Boston, Nancy Kidder.  
 August 27, John Campbell, Dolly Baldwin.  
 September, 17, James French, Jr., Wilton, N. H., Polley Whitney.  
 October 1, Abel Hosley, Hannah Warner.  
 November 26, Jacob Sanders, Jr., Salina Gassett.
1813. April 22, Jephtha Wright, Brookline, Polley Hosley.  
 May 11, Joel Conant, Boston, Charlotte Warren.  
 May 11, Samuel Searl, Jr., Betsey Tarbell.  
 September 30, Daniel Giles, Betsey Stone.  
 September 30, Samuel Whitney, Polley Wallace.  
 November 25, Jacob Cowdrey, Ashby, Hannah Blood.
1814. January 19, Rogers Weston, Mason, Polly Winn.  
 February 9, Thaddeus Morse, Polly White.  
 March 1, Walter Hastings, Esq., Roxanna Warren.  
 April 22, John Sanders, Isabel Roberts, Ashby.  
 May 25, Simon Bruce, Mary Lawrence.  
 May 25, Ezra Lee, Amherst, Polly Sartell.



1814. June 1, Robert Campbell, Polly Dix.  
 June 9, Phinehas Austin, Ruth Baldwin.  
 June —, Solomon Green, Emily Potter.  
 December 1, John Scales, Nancy Emery.  
 December 4, Simeon Green, Nancy Eaton,  
 Lunenburg.  
 December 13, Doct. Josiah Richardson, Pepperell,  
 Betsey Stone.  
 December 22, Quincey Sylvester, Sally Wallis.
1815. January 22, George Green, Pepperell, Polly  
 Baldwin.  
 February 16, Levi Adams, Leominster, Hannah  
 Adams.  
 March 2, Reuben Flagg, Hollis, Abigail Emerson.  
 March 29, Josiah Sawtell, 3d, Rebekah Man-  
 ning.  
 April 18, John Warner, Lovia Conant.  
 May 4, William Pratt, Sibyl Stone.  
 June 29, Lewis Stiles, Betsey Hartwell.  
 July 9, Frederick Reed, Peterborough, Hannah  
 H. Lewis.  
 December 7, Martin Bartlett, Elima Grayham.  
 December 15, Phinehas P. Dix, Clarrissa Rand.
1816. January 1, John Kinsman, Fitchburg, Nancy  
 Sherwin.  
 January 11, Levi Piper, Baltimore, Vt., Mariam  
 Bartlett.  
 March 11, Josiah D. Stiles, Leominster, Hannah  
 Bowers.  
 March 12, David Lawrence, Ashby, Betsey  
 Kendall, Ashby.  
 March 12, Stephen Kendall, Ashby, Lydia C.  
 Burr, Ashby.  
 April 11, Jabez Lawrence, Ashby, Elizabeth  
 Piper, Ashby.





1816. April 23, Daniel Shattuck, Concord, Sarah Edwards, Ashby.  
 May 2, Isaac Preston, New Ipswich, Sarah Sawtell, 3d.  
 May 6, Eleazer Rice, Rebekah Johnson.  
 May 19, John Currier, Susan Foster, Ashby.  
 May 26, Thomas Ingalls, Rindge, Polly Stone.  
 June 4, Nathaniel Cummings, Anna Fletcher, Dunstable.  
 June 11, Cushing Wilder, Nancy Spaulding.  
 October 24, William Wesson, Jr., Dolly Hodgeman.  
 October 31, Ezekiel Wellington, Ashby; Susan Haskell, Ashby.  
 November 7, Daniel Tuttle, Ashby, Rebecca Burr, Ashby.  
 November 12, Stephen Marble, Ashburnham, Polly Flint, Ashby.  
 December 5, Isaac Foster, Cinthia Barrett, Ashby.  
 December 8, Jonas Webber, Mason, N. H., Sarah White.  
 December 15, Samuel Merriam, Mason, N. H., Lucy Davis.  
 December 19, William Farr, Lucy Puffer, Ashby.  
 December 28, Otis Moore, Harvard, Sukey Baldwin.  
 December 31, Eben<sup>r</sup>. Jewett, Jr., Hollis, N. H., Elizabeth Walker.
1817. January 16, Charles Cutler, Prudence Holden, Ashby.  
 January 21, Thaddeus D. Prentice, Goshen, N. H., Cynthia Manning.  
 March 6, Josiah Foster, Lucinda Hodgeman, Ashby.  
 March 16, Wyman Parker, Millbury, Achsah Gutterson.



1817. March 20, Isaac Patch, Abigail Flint.  
March 23, Levi Warren, Lydia Wright.  
May 25, Josiah Spaulding, Fanny Hildreth.  
July 17, Oliver Wheeler, Boston, Mary Whitney, Ashby.  
August 26, Francis S. Bacon, Ashby, Melinda Kendall, Ashby.  
October 5, Samuel Wheeler, Stoneham, Betsey Foster.  
October 21, Stephen H. Fletcher, Wilton, N. H., Sally Foster.  
December 2, Josiah Wilder, Ashby, Susan Flint, Ashby.  
December 16, Samuel Brooks, Sally Campbell.  
December 25, Marshall Atherton, Shirley, Saphronia Shattuck.
1818. January 28, Abner Bills, Betsey Cummings.  
March 29, John Davis, Olive Wadsworth.  
April 16, Samuel Manning, Margaret Craige.  
April 23, Samuel Haynes, Sibyl Stone.  
May 7, Bemsley Lord, Rebecca Conant.  
May 19, Thomas Ingalls, Rindge, N. H., Betsey Richardson.  
May 27, Jonathan Henry, Lunenburg, Mary Gutterson.  
June 25, Abner Proctor, Betsey Davis.  
June 25, William Turner, Ludlow, Vt., Sally Going.  
August 19, Joshua Richardson, Polly Richardson.  
September 17, Elnathan Davis, Polly Adams.  
October 10, Buckley Hodgeman, Betsey Pratt.  
November 12, John Adams, Groton, Sally Searle.  
November 26, Aaron Upton, Reading, Abigail Damon, Ashby.  
December 3, John W. Bancroft, Betsey Adams.



1819. January 13, Elijah Childs, Upton, Elizabeth Jenkins.  
 February 3, Bolter Colson, Sharon, N. H., Polly Spaulding.  
 April 27, Abijah Severance, N. Ipswich, N. H., Hannah Searle.  
 May 13, Stephen Austin, Sally Spaulding.  
 May 20, Robert Jeffs, Sally Green.  
 June 3, Jacob Blake, Savoy, Martha Edwards.  
 June 27, Joel Emery, Mary Sylvester.  
 October 28, Benjamin Blancy, Hepzibah Davis, Shirley.  
 November 11, Hawly Hale, ——— Flint, Ashby.  
 November 30, Jonathan Hubbard, Abigail Taylor.  
 December 2, Paul Hayward, Ashby, Betsey Taylor, Ashby.  
 December 14, Ebenezer Barrett, Mary Fuller.  
 December 19, Joseph Simonds, Brookline, N. H., Betsey Tarbell.
1820. January 9, Sam<sup>l</sup>. Richardson, Dublin, N. H., Polly Kidder.  
 January 18, Edward Smith, Lunenburg, Mehitabel Richardson, Ashby.  
 January 26, James Wilder, Sterling, Arethusa Manning.  
 March 16, Walker Gassett, Pepperell, Betsey Hall.  
 March 23, John Withington, Mason, N. H., Hannah Spaulding.  
 March 30, Samuel Jenkins, Jr., Harriett L. Conant.  
 April 9, Peter Stevens, Hannah R. Shipley.  
 April 23, Joseph Proctor, Mitty Bartlett.  
 May 9, John Hodgeman, Sarah Wesson.  
 October 1, Samuel Graham, Jr., Ascenath Adams.



1820. October 12, Joseph Estabrook, New Ipswich.  
Abigail Lawrence, Ashby.  
November 23, Levi Kendall, Lucy Kendall.  
Ashby.  
November 23, Eri Lewis, Mason, N. H., Roney  
Going.  
December 28, David Wood, 3d, Lunenburg, Polly  
Sherwin.
1821. January 23, Peter S. Sloan, Nancy Hill.  
February 6, Oliver Laughton, Shirley, Rachel  
Gilson.  
February 15, James Lancey, Brookline, N. H.,  
Azubah Shattuck.  
March 20, John Howard, Ashby, Eliza Spaulding.  
March 29, Daniel Warner, Betsey Hosley,  
Pepperell.  
April 19, Joseph Adams, Martha Butterfield.  
May 31, Sylvester Hildreth, Westford, Mary  
Hildreth.  
July 26, Jonathan Pierce, Molly Bachelier, Shirley.  
August 28, Jonathan Divol, Tamson Farrow.  
September 21, William Going, Charlestown,  
Nancy Flagg.  
September 21, Isaac Beard, Betsey Spaulding.  
October 15, George Hartwell, Mason, N. H.,  
Sally Whitney.  
October 24, Joseph H. Hildreth, Louisa Conant.  
November 8, Cephas Manning, Huldah Green.  
December 6, Joel Searle, Sally Gleason, Shirley.  
December 6, Warren Foster, Sally Searle.  
December 16, Nathan Powers, Rhoda C. Butter-  
field, Pepperell.  
December 20, Joseph Simonds, Bethiah Spauld-  
ing.  
December 27, Asa Sanders, Patty Bailey.





1822. February 7, Doct. Nehemiah Cutter, Pepperell, Mary Parker, Pepperell.  
 March 19, Clough R. Miles, Abby Willard, Shirley.  
 March 26, Phinehas Page, Rindge, N. H., Mary Spaulding.  
 April 11, Leonard Whitney, Sibyl Newell, Pepperell.  
 April 14, Eben<sup>r</sup>. Stone, Eluthea Hayward.  
 May 2, Benj<sup>n</sup>. Spaulding, Jr., Betsey Searle.  
 May 28, Walter Carleton, Lunenburg, Lucinda Barrett.  
 May 30, Marshall Lewis, Sally Adams.  
 August 20, Luther Adams, Sally Rand.  
 August 22, Asa Hodgeman, Sally Jenkins.  
 August 29, Doct. Ptolemy Edson, Chester, Vt., Susanna Pratt.  
 October 23, James Kidder, Eunice L. Williams.
1823. March 18, Capt. Josiah Sawtell, Rindge, N. H., Sibyl Stone.  
 April 17, Abel Keyes, Rebekah Weston.  
 April 17, Levi Blood, Pepperell, Hannah Sawtell.  
 May 1, George Rockwood, Annah B. Stickney.  
 May 4, Ralph Warren, Betsey Sherwin.  
 May 27, William Manning, Jr., Mary Craige.  
 May 27, Wallis Little, Martha Hammond, Shirley.  
 June 15, Daniel Bolles, Clarissa Warren.  
 July 6, Samuel Howard, Harriett Haywood.
1824. January 29, Jotham Bartlett, Sarah Wilder.  
 March 15, William Mead, Martha Gilson.  
 March 23, Bolter Colston, Sabria Shattuck.  
 March 23, Asa Graham, Mitty Adams.  
 March 31, Joel Manning, Nancy P. Verder.  
 April 15, Levi Flagg, Jr., Lunenburg, Olive Eastman.



1824. April 22, Peter Manning, Sally Stone.  
 April 22, Ephraim Hodgeman, Mason, Sibyl Sanders.  
 April 29, Capt. William Park, Lydia Trull.  
 May 9, Amos Eaton, Ashby, Abigail Sherwin.  
 May 27, Jonathan Warren, Mason, Rebekah Beard.  
 June 10, William Zwiers, Louisa Zwiers, Lancaster.  
 June 30, Chas. H. Peabody, Pepperell, Grace S. Ide, Newfane, Vt.  
 October 5, Ezra Emery, Sally Warner.  
 October 7, Benjamin Spaulding, 3d, Eliza Evans.  
 October 14, George Shed, Pepperell, Abigail Stickney.  
 November 10, Benj. Dix, Jr., Mehitabel Smith.  
 December 14, Charles Gilchrist, Lunenburg, Isabel Craige.
1825. January 12, Zela Bartlett, Abigail Boutelle.  
 February 23, Jonathan Wythe, Jr., Betsey Holt.  
 April 20, Wm. D. Kidder, Chelmsford, Caroline Shipley.  
 June 12, Jonathan P. Bailey, Mary Clark.  
 July 3, Emerson Hardy, Concord, Louisa Barrett.  
 October 27, Luke Holt, Dracut, Lucia Palmer.  
 November 12, Thos. Bailey, Cambridge, Eliza Boutelle, Boston.  
 November 24, Nathaniel Whiting, Lunenburg, Mary Adams.  
 December 11, Isaac Manning, Rosellana Withereil, Brookline.
1826. January 26, David Lane, Jr., Bedford, Betsey B. Simonds.  
 February 21, Ezra Baker, Marlboro, N. H., Caroline Adams.  
 March 28, John McRoberts, Ashby, Mary Sanders.



1826. May 31, Capt. Sam<sup>l</sup>. Scripture, Nelson, N. H.,  
Rebekah Conant.
- June 1, Stephen Burnham, Wilton, N. H., Mary  
Rockwood.
- June 15, Zimri Sherwin, Susan Sawtell.
- August 3, Daniel Prentice, Sibyl Smith.
- September 3, Colburn Green, Brookline, N. H.,  
Sarah Colson.
- October 3, Samuel Bailey, Mary Hart.
- October 5, Levi Stearns, Direxa Jewett.
- October 26, Phillip Farnsworth, Brookline, N. H.,  
Abigail Dix.
- November 2, Benjamin Adams, Abigail Going.
- December 21, John Whitcomb, Abigail Richardson.
1827. January 4, Edward G. Darby, Laura Sherwin.
- February 22, Edward G. Adams, Lunenburg,  
Patty S. Spaulding.
- February 22, Aaron Swett, Salisbury, Lydia But-  
ters.
- February 25, Nathan Whitney, Bolton, Eliza  
Stevens.
- March 8, Daniel Dix, Jr., Eunice Gilson.
- April 8, Elisha D. Barber, Sherburne, Sarah Dix.
- May 1, Doct. Right Cummings, Lancaster, Mary  
Lawrence.
- May 29, ——— Lancy, Brookline, N. H., ———  
Going, Lunenburg.
- May 31, Daniel Giles, Hannah Hart.
- June 14, Chas. Johnson, Southborough, Elvira  
Locke.
- August 9, John Snow, Charlestown, Hannah  
Marshall, Lunenburg.
- October —, Royal Russell, Bedford, Roxey B.  
Sloan.
- November —, Samuel J. Cook, Lunenburg, Syl-  
via Spaulding.



1827. December 16, Seth Stevens, Keziah Davis.  
December 18, Calvin B. Hartwell, Shirley, Susan Hammond, Shirley.  
December 30, Capt. Eben<sup>r</sup>. Rawson, Boston, Leah Davis.
1828. February 27, Levi Simonds, Fitchburg, Lydia Putnam, Fitchburg.  
April 1, Joseph Warner, Rebekah Page, Shirley.  
April 3, Jesse Sanderson, Charlestown, Marilla Turner.  
April 10, Jonathan Spaulding, Mary Warner.  
April 15, Joel Spaulding, Jr., Mary P. Cook, Lunenburg.  
April 23, Benjamin Wallis, Susan Spaulding.  
April 24, Capt. Jephth Cumings, Dunstable, Asenath Warren.  
May 7, John Whitcomb, Leominster, Betsey Warner.  
May 11, John Hildreth, Sarah Jepson.  
May 28, Benjamin Smith, Ruth Blood.  
June 26, Solomon Jewett, Jr., Melinda Ball.  
September 16, Richard Warner, Olive Swan.  
October 5, John Pierce, Charlestown, Jane Sanderson, Lunenburg.  
October 9, Asher Peabody, Mason, N. H., Susan A. Amsden.  
October 9, Benj. F. Jewett, Pepperell, Martha Warner.  
October 27, John Preston, Elizabeth S. French.  
December 25, Asa Messer, Lunenburg, Hannah Dodge.
1829. April 15, Parker D. Lane, Lowell, Abigail E. Hodgman, Lowell.  
April 23, Thos. E. Daniels, Worcester, Lucy Sherwin, Fitchburg.  
May 28, Eli Baldwin, Polly Spaulding.





1829. June 2, Jonathan Wythe, Emma Kemp.  
 July 21, Horace Fessenden, Betsey Searle.  
 July 26, Daniel Shattuck, Lucinda Wetherby.  
 December 10, Aaron Manning, Lois Fessenden.  
 December 29, William Johnson, Abigail Flagg.
1830. January 28, Samuel Joslyn, Nancy Stone.  
 March 2, Levi Simonds, Fitchburg, Eliza Putnam.  
 March 4, Asa Mars, Brookline, Sally Foster.  
 April 8, John E. Lake, Rindge, N. H., Mary  
 Ann Sawtell.  
 April 13, Joseph Whitney, Bolton, Eliza Sanders.  
 April 29, M. T. Jones, Lunenburg, Ann F. Snow,  
 Lunenburg.  
 May 13, Calvin Boutelle, Thirza Pierce.  
 May 20, Edwin Smith, Goffstown, N. H., Sibyl  
 Wallis.  
 May 30, William Spaulding, Pepperell, Mary  
 Tarbell.  
 June 3, John Spaulding, Eliza Spaulding, Shirley.  
 July 11, Benjamin Hodgeman, Jr., Mary Gilson.  
 September 16, Noah Ball, Jr., Huldah Tenney.  
 September 26, Andrew Shattuck, Lunenburg,  
 Rebekah Green.  
 October 14, Luther Boutelle, Groton, Hannah  
 Conant.  
 October 14, Silas Withington, Sarah Nutting.  
 November 4, Samuel Warner, Sally Lewis.

Marriage performed by Rev. William M. Rogers : —

1831. October 2, Abram S. French, Lois P. Richardson.



Marriages of Townsend people found in the records of the town of Groton:—

- 1731-2. January 5, Shadrack Whitney, North Town, Prudence Lawrence.
1732. April 4, James Hosley, North Town, Eunice Jewett.  
April 25, John Albee, North Town, Abigail Searle, North Town.
1742. December 9, William Richardson, Townsend, Mary Hobart.
1747. April 2, William Wallis, Townsend, Eunice Nutting.
1752. January 22, Benj. Brooks, Jr., Townsend, Elizabeth Green.
1753. December 17, James Lock, Jr., Townsend, Hannah Farnsworth.
1755. April 16, John Stevens, Townsend, Susanna Tarbell.  
May 29, Jonas Sawtelle, Elizabeth Albee, Townsend.
1759. January 2, Jonas Baldwin, Townsend, Ruth Wilson.  
January 10, Solomon Stevens, Townsend, Hannah Tarbell.
1760. March 19, Jonathan Spaulding, Townsend, Elizabeth Sawtell.
1763. December 8, James Giles, Townsend, Elizabeth Green.
1765. May 15, Josiah Stevens, Townsend, Mary Lawrence.
1771. June 4, Reuben Tucker, Townsend, Relief Farnsworth.

Marriages of Townsend people, performed at Mason, New Hampshire, by Rev. Ebenezer Hill. Where the



name of the town is not given the presumption is that the person belonged to Mason :—

- 1791. March 17, Jonas Baldwin, Jr., Townsend, Prudence Haven.
- 1796. June 24, Edward Taylor, Townsend, Sally Brooks.  
October 27, Stephen Withington, Polly Austin, Townsend.
- 1798. February 17, Pearly Sanders, Townsend, Sarah Todd, Townsend.
- 1799. February 12, Jonathan Blood, Townsend, Rachel Squire, Townsend.
- 1800. July 1, Aaron Warren, Townsend, Sally Wheeler.
- 1801. November 10, John Withington, Sally Spaulding, Townsend.
- 1809. December 21, Samuel Stone, Jr., Townsend, Lucy Wheeler.
- 1810. December 13, Jesse Seaver, Townsend, Betsey Warren.
- 1818. April 19, Pearly Sanders, Townsend, Hannah Robbins.
- 1820. December 26, Caleb Bucknam, Townsend, Louisa Brooks Snow.
- 1821. November 18, Jonas Brown, Townsend, Phebe Winship.
- 1822. November 28, John Jenkins, Townsend, Loisa Brown.
- 1823. December 21, Joseph Merriam, 2d, Nancy Davis, Townsend.
- 1825. January 13, Jesse Sanders, Townsend, Mary Ann Kemp.
- 1827. July 5, Daniel Bills, Townsend, Lucretia Tucker, Townsend.
- 1828. May 9, Josiah Sawtell, Townsend, Rebecca Barber.



1829. October 29, Ebenezer Hodgeman, Townsend,  
Mary Ann Blood.
1832. April 10, Stow A. Verder, Townsend, Eliza D.  
Douglass.
1833. March 12, Amos Herrick, Mrs. Mary Barrett,  
Townsend.  
May 14, Jonas Farmer, Townsend, Gratia Grant.  
December 19, Eliab Going, Jr., Townsend,  
Hannah Warren.
1835. December 10, Capt. Eliab Going, Townsend, Mrs.  
Dorcas Humphries.

Marriage performed by Rev. Joseph B. Hill, of  
Mason :—

1843. April 26, Abel F. Adams, Townsend, Lydia M.  
Newhall.

The following catalogue of marriages was received  
and recorded by Daniel Adams, town clerk of Townsend,  
agreeably to the act of 1857, chapter 84, section 4 :—

Marriages performed by Rev. Daniel Chaplin :—

1798. Andrew Dodge, Groton, Sally Bowers, Townsend.  
1798. James Giles, Jr., Townsend, Nabby Fitch, Groton.

Marriage performed by Rev. N. Webb :—

1771. Ezra Holbrook, Townsend, Melitabel Tyler,  
Uxbridge.

Marriages performed by Ebenezer Bridge :—

1745. Noah Emery, Townsend, Mary Barrett, Townsend.  
1756. Daniel Taylor, Townsend, Lydia Burge, Town-  
send.  
1764. Benj. Spaulding, Townsend, Patty Barrett, Town-  
send.





Marriage performed by James Prescott, Esq. :—

1742. Joseph Herrick, Townsend, Lois Cutler, Townsend.

Marriages performed by Rev. Willard Hall :—

1753. Ebenezer Ball, Townsend, Rebecca Butterfield, Westford.  
 1759. Eleazer Taylor, Townsend, Sarah Keyes, Westford.  
 1766. James Barrett, Townsend, Mary Fletcher, Westford.

Marriages performed by Rev. Matthew Scribner :—

1780. Isaac Green, Townsend, Abigail Chamberlain, Westford.  
 1781. Josiah Burge, Jr., Townsend, Precilla Barnes, Westford.

Marriage performed by Isaac Wright, Esq. :—

1786. Abram Ball, Townsend, Deliverance Perham, Westford.

Marriages performed by ——— (name not given).

1766. Hezekiah Richardson, Townsend, Elizabeth Howe, Woburn.  
 1769. John Waugh, Townsend, Mary White, Littleton.  
 1757. Oliver Farnsworth, Townsend, Jemima Haywood, Dunstable.  
 1769. Abram Clark, Townsend, Olive Taylor, Dunstable.

Marriage performed by Rev. William Lawrence :—

1769. Edward Farwell, Townsend, Rachel Allen, Lincoln.

Marriage performed by Rev. Ebenezer Sparhawk :—

1785. Bazaleel Spaulding, Townsend, Hannah Barrett, Templeton.



Marriages performed by Rev. David Stearns :—

- 1750. Archabald White, Townsend, Margaret McClure,  
Lunenburg.
- 1760. Thomas Gary, Lunenburg, Elizabeth Farwell,  
Townsend.
- 1769. Amos Heald, Townsend, Betsey Davis, Lunen-  
burg.

Marriage performed by Thomas Prentice, Esq. :—

- 1747. Gustavus Swan, Lunenburg, Isabella Wilson,  
Townsend.

Marriages performed by Rev. Zabdiel Adams :—

- 1795. Aaron Keyes, Townsend, Sally Kimball.
- 1789. Abel Keyes, Townsend, Sally Bailey, Lunenburg.
- 1791. Jonathan Messer, Jr., Lunenburg, Betsey Brown,  
Townsend.

Marriage performed by Rev. Jonathan Townsend :—

- 1766. William Parkman, Townsend, Lydia Adams,  
Medfield.

Marriages performed by Rev. Samuel Ruggles :—

- 1740. September 30, Hezekiah Richardson, Townsend,  
Elizabeth Walker, Billerica.
- 1739. James Stevens, Townsend, Mary Richardson,  
Billerica.
- 1745. Ebenezer Wyman, Townsend, Dorcas Willson, .  
Billerica.

Marriage performed by John Chandler :—

- 1760. Jacob Baldwin, Townsend, Elizabeth Lewis,  
Billerica.

Marriage performed by Ebenezer Crafts, Esq. :—

- 1781. Jeshurun Walker, Townsend, Lydia Holbrook,  
Sturbridge.



## Marriage performed by Francis Gardner :—

1798. Samuel Jenkins, Townsend, Rebecca Tainter.

## Marriages performed by Rev. Joseph Emerson :—

1753. George Campbell, Townsend, Mary Wheeler, Groton.  
 John Wallis, Jr., Townsend, Mary White, Groton.
1755. Joseph Butterfield, Townsend, Susanna Adams, Pepperell.  
 Jonathan Wallis, Townsend, Mary Barstow, Hollis.
1758. James Hosley, Townsend, Sarah Shedd, Pepperell.
1760. James Conick, Betsey Campbell, Townsend.
1761. William Warren, Pepperell, Sarah Stevens, Townsend.

## Marriages performed by Rev. John Bullard :—

1781. Eben Ball, Townsend, Sarah Shattuck, Pepperell.
1786. Edmund Blood, Pepperell, Lucy Taylor, Townsend.
1787. Uziah Wyman, Townsend, Lydia Nutting, Pepperell.
1789. Robert Mention, Townsend, Sally White, Pepperell.
1790. Thadæus Spaulding, Townsend, Olive Blood, Pepperell.
1793. Aaron Scott, Townsend, Ruth Blood, Pepperell.
1794. Jesse Spaulding, Townsend, Abby Blood, Pepperell.
1797. Adam Hill, Townsend, Rebecca Frost, Pepperell.
1798. Jeremiah Ball, Townsend, Lucy Putnam.  
 Francis Butterfield, Townsend, Martha Gilson, Townsend.  
 Joseph Wallis, Townsend, Hannah Conant, Townsend.



1799. Samuel Sparhawk, Townsend, Polly Baldwin, Townsend.

1793. Micha Benipo, Townsend, Mary William, Pepperell (colored).

Marriage performed by Rev. Paul Litchfield :—

1788. James Giles, Jr., Townsend, Lydia Russell, Carlisle.

Marriage performed by Asa Parley, Esq. :—

1795. Samuel Grimes, Townsend, Elimah Hutchins, Carlisle.

Marriage performed by Rev. Daniel ——— :—

1770. John Farwell, Harvard, Elimah Hutchins, Carlisle.

Marriage performed by Nathaniel Russell, Esq. :—

1760. Jonathan Putnam, Townsend, Hannah Worcester, Townsend.

Marriage performed by Rev. Samuel Kendall :—

1790. Samuel Batherick, Townsend, Hannah Bemis, Weston.

Marriages performed by Rev. Timothy Harrington :—

1787. William Hobart, Townsend, Dolly Smith, Lancaster.

1753. William Smith, Townsend, Martha Dunsmore, Lancaster.





## CHAPTER XVII.\*

### *DESCENDANTS OF DANIEL ADAMS.—THE WHITNEY FAMILY.*

Record of the Descendants of Daniel Adams, who settled in Townsend, in 1712—The Whitney Family as Benefactors and Business Men—Genealogy of some of the Townsend Whitneys.

People by the name of Adams are nearly as numerous as those by the name of Brown, or Smith. Up to 1875, the number of graduates, at Harvard College, by the name of Smith, was one hundred and two, while there were ninety-six graduated by the name of Adams. *Adamson* was the original name, of which Adams is an abbreviation. The name was very common, in England, at the time of the settlement of the colonies. As many as four different families by the name of Adams, claiming no relationship, settled in the province of Massachusetts.

The name of Adams was quite common in early provincial times. At present there are several genealogists by that name, who are making great efforts to collect the facts in regard to their ancestors, with the view of an "Adams Memorial." The lineage of so many persons, must, from the nature of the case, remain a matter of much uncertainty in numerous instances. From the present

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\* The abbreviations in this chapter are: b. for born; m. for married; d. for died.



time, the various families will have their record well preserved, inasmuch as our people are just beginning to study genealogy.

JOSEPH ADAMS, the progenitor of a part of those by the name of Adams who have made Townsend their place of residence, came from England, about 1685, and settled in Cambridge, in what is now Arlington. Little is known of his family, except that he was the father of one Daniel Adams. The Genealogical Register has the following :—

"CAPT. DANIEL ADAMS lived in the south part of Lincoln, once in the limits of Concord, where he died, 1780. Married ELIZABETH MINOT.

Their children were :

Daniel, b. 1720.

Elizabeth, b. 1722.

Joseph, b. 1724.

Rebecca, b. 1727.

James, b. 1732.

Lydia, b. 1735.

Martha, b. 1738.

Mary, b. 1740.

These individuals all lived to a good age, and had sixty-nine children, averaging eight and five-eighths each."

This Daniel Adams, and one Ephraim Jones, both of Concord, cut a road from Townsend to the Ashuelot River, in 1737, and asked the General Court to pay them for their work, but they never received anything from the province, for their services. The old road to Ashby is known in the Townsend records as the "Ashuelot Road;" and it is substantially over the same route that Adams and



Jones cut their way through, to facilitate the communication between the Middlesex county towns, near the coast, and Keene, which was granted by Massachusetts, and settled in 1735.

DANIEL ADAMS,<sup>3</sup> (*Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) was born in Concord, in 1720, and moved to Townsend, in 1742. Of the place where he located, the reader may learn by turning to the sketch of Seth Davis, in this work. Married, first, KEZIAH BROOKS, of Concord, 1743; she died, 1754.

Their children were :

Elizabeth, b. July 31, 1745; d. 1745.

Daniel, b. July 29, 1746.

Abner, b. Oct. 22, 1748.

Rebecca, b. July 6, 1750.

Benjamin, b. Oct. 17, 1752.

Ephraim, b. Aug. 14, 1754.

Married, second, MEHITABEL CROSBY, 1756; she died, 1783.

Their children were :

Robert, b. Jan. 8, 1757; d. 1757.

Phebe, b. Nov. 11, 1757; d. 1757.

Keziah, b. Feb. 28, 1759; d. 1782.

Mehitabel, b. Feb. 23, 1761.

Elizabeth, b. June 7, 1763; d. 1782.

Mary, b. July 23, 1765.

Joseph, b. July 7, 1767.

James, b. May 27, 1769; d. 1769.

Phebe, b. Dec. 18, 1771.

James, b. April 15, 1773.

He married, third, SARAH PHELPS, of Lancaster, June 30, 1784, who survived him, and was well provided for by the will of her husband, who died in 1795, aged



seventy-five years. There are twenty-eight lines of poetry on the large slate gravestone, erected at the east side of the old burying-ground, to perpetuate his memory. He was a man of much influence,—was town clerk for several years, served on the board of selectmen many times, and represented Townsend in the General Court. He was a man of industrious habits, and amid all the trials and cares of rearing the largest family ever in town, known to the writer, he accumulated a large property which he distributed by his will about equally among his children.

REBECCA, his daughter, married, December 21, 1769, James Campbell, of (Raby) Brookline, where they lived and reared four children. He represented Mason and Raby in the Legislature of New Hampshire, while these towns were classed.

KEZIAH married John Sherwin, in 1782. About 1800, he built what is now the Townsend almshouse, for a tavern, and kept tavern there several years. This was a public house a large part of the time till 1834, when the town bought it for \$1,400.

ELIZABETH married Joshua Smith, of Raby. They had sons and daughters, and their descendants are now among the inhabitants of Brookline and Townsend.

MARY married John Giles, who was a prominent man and a deacon of the church in this town. Two of their sons graduated at Harvard College and are sketched in another part of this work.

PHEBE married Solomon Jewett, 1795. They reared a family, and among them was Solomon Jewett, Jr., whose name appears with the Townsend traders, in another chapter.





DANIEL ADAMS<sup>1</sup> (*Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married LYDIA TAYLOR, daughter of Capt. Daniel Taylor, May 21, 1772.

Their children were :

Daniel, b. Sept. 29, 1773.

Joel, b. Jan. 19, 1779.

Lydia, b. Oct. 15, 1784.

Jonathan Stow, b. June 5, 1786.

This was a remarkable family. They lived on the east side of Hathorn's meadow, in the house now occupied by two Bohemian families. The father was a deacon of the church, and a justice of the peace; his son Daniel was a noted author; Joel was a deacon of the church, and a justice of the peace; Lydia was a lady of intelligence and refinement (married Asa Kendall, of Lunenburg, October 15, 1807); and Jonathan Stow was a deacon of the church, in Groton, and a justice of the peace. They were all born in Townsend. Daniel Adams, the father of this family was a good townsman, and held most of the town offices. He fully appreciated the importance of education, and gave all his children good advantages in that direction.

ABNER ADAMS<sup>1</sup> (*Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married, first, MOLEY SAWTELL, May 20, 1784. She died, 1785.

Their child was :

James, b. June 15, 1785.

Married, second, SARAH SAWTELL, November 10, 1796. Their children were :

Luther, b. ———, 1797; m. Sarah Rand, Aug. 20, 1822.



Mary, b. Sept. 30, 1802; m. Nathaniel Whiting,  
Nov. 24, 1825.

Abner, b. Jan. 27, 1805; m. Almira Parker, 1833.

Walter, b. Feb. 1, 1806.

Eli, b. Feb. 11, 1808.

Lucy, b. —, 1811; m. Archelaus Adams.

He was a farmer and lived on the premises now owned and occupied by Stillman Adams, and Sarah Jane, his sister. He was a man of good natural abilities—was a selectman and a representative to the General Court.

BENJAMIN ADAMS<sup>1</sup> (*Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married, MARY STONE, of Townsend, July 16, 1779.

Their children were :

Benjamin, b. Sept. 17, 1780.

Patty, b. Oct. 12, 1784; m. Jonathan Chapman.

Polly, b. Oct. 12, 1786.

Samuel, b. Sept. 12, 1789; m. Calista French.

Betsey, b. March 7, 1792; m. Josiah French, Jr.

Daniel, b. July 4, 1795; m. Catherine Hartwell.

Joseph, b. Aug. 7, 1800; m. Marinda French, 1826.

Soon after his marriage he moved to Cavendish, Vermont, where his children were born.

JOSEPH ADAMS<sup>1</sup> (*Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married MARY BROOKS, of Townsend, June 28, 1792.

Their children were :

Polly, b. Dec. 13, 1793; m. Capt. Elnathan Davis.

Joseph, b. Sept. 27, 1795; m. Martha Butterfield.

Betsey, b. Oct. 5, 1797; m. John Bancroft.

Sally, b. Dec. 4, 1799; m. Marshall Lewis.

Daniel, b. June 9, 1802; m. Mary Marshall.

Benjamin, b. Sept. 3, 1804; m. Abigail Going.

Noah, b. Aug. 4, 1806; m. Levina P. Cowden.

Brooks, b. March 13, 1809; m. Hannah Spaulding.



Capt. Joseph Adams lived on the farm where he was born, described on page 237 of this work. He was an exemplary man, leading a strictly puritanical life. Although he kept a large stock of cattle, and his sons were taught the habits of industry, he never allowed his stable to be cleaned out on the Sabbath.

JAMES ADAMS<sup>4</sup> (*Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married SIBYL GASSETT, of Townsend, 1802.

Their children were :

Dolly, b. Dec. 29, 1803 ; m. Albert White, of Bedford.

Sabra, b. Feb. 26, 1807 ; m. Franklin Converse.

Submit, b. Jan. 1, 1809 ; m. George Maxwell, of Cincinnati.

Rebeckah, b. July 6, 1812 ; m. Charles Coburn, of Lowell.

DANIEL ADAMS<sup>5</sup> (*Daniel*,<sup>4</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married NANCY MULLERIN, August 17, 1800.

Their children were :

Darwin, b. Oct. 10, 1801 ; m. Catherine Smith.

Arabella, b. Sept. 9, 1803 ; died young.

Nancy, b. July 7, 1810 ; died young.

Daniel L., b. Nov. 1, 1814 ; m. Cornelia A. Cook.

Nancy Ann, b. Dec. 3, 1821 ; m. William S. Briggs.

For a description of this Adams, see page 299 of this work.

JOEL ADAMS<sup>5</sup> (*Daniel*,<sup>4</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married POLLY STONE, November 3, 1803.

Their children were :

Mary, b. July 21, 1804 ; m. John Bertram, M. D.

Samuel, b. Nov. 18, 1805.

He was a prominent man, held the town offices, was a deacon of the church, and a justice of the peace.



JONATHAN STOW ADAMS<sup>5</sup> (*Daniel*,<sup>1</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married BETSEY WOOD; no children. He was a trader and did business in Groton. He was a deacon of the church, a justice of the peace, and very decided in his opinions.

LUTHER ADAMS<sup>5</sup> (*Abner*,<sup>1</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married SARAH RAND, August 20, 1822.

Their children were :

Stillman, b. ———, 1823.

Sarah Jane, b. June 17, 1826.

Maria, b. July 28, 1829; died young.

He represented Townsend, in the General Court, in 1856. He was a farmer and fruit grower; an industrious, honest man.

JAMES ADAMS<sup>5</sup> (*Abner*,<sup>1</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married NANCY PRATT, November 6, 1808. She died, 1861. Their children were :

Nancy P., b. Aug. 10, 1809; m. Levi Richardson, 1832.

Elizabeth, b. Dec. 1, 1813; died in youth.

Lydia, b. Jan. 13, 1817; m. John Walker, 1837.

Catherine S., b. Jan. 19, 1822; m. Joseph H. Chadwick, 1843.

James Edson, b. Nov. 27, 1824; unmarried; d. May 8, 1871.

Capt. James Adams was a farmer. He was a man of a pleasant disposition, a kind husband and father, and he was much respected. JAMES EDSON, his son, was a very active Boston merchant. He left a large amount of property.





ABNER ADAMS<sup>5</sup> (*Abner*,<sup>1</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married ALMIRA PARKER, of Antrim, N. H., 1833.

Their children were :

Lizzie M., b. July 18, 1836 ; m. Edward Caufy, 1874.

George A., b. May 25, 1840 ; m. Martha A. Howe, 1861.

Carrie, b. Feb. 18, 1855 ; m. Asa Williams, 1874.

He was a farmer, and a man of good character and habits.

JOSEPH ADAMS<sup>5</sup> (*Joseph*,<sup>1</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married, first, MARTHA BUTTERFIELD, 1821.

Their children were :

Union, b. March 13, 1822.

Elbridge G., b. May 16, 1824.

Martha J., b. Jan. 14, 1827 ; m. Charles Joslin, 1846.

Harriett B., b. Nov. 18, 1834 ; m. Thurston Richardson, 1854. Resides at Leominster.

Married, second, SARAH EASTMAN, 1835.

Their children were :

Vinal, b. April 9, 1840 ; d. Jan. 25, 1841.

Sarah L., b. April 2, 1842 ; died in infancy.

Joseph Alden, b. Oct. 14, 1843.

Joseph Adams is still alive. He has been postmaster at the central village—a hotel keeper and a trader—is now an old gentleman, retired from business. JOSEPH A., his son, married Adelaide Gilbert, 1868. No children.

BENJAMIN ADAMS<sup>6</sup> (*Joseph*,<sup>1</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married ABIGAIL GOING, November 2, 1826. They had one daughter. They moved to Troy, in the state of New York, where he engaged in hotel keeping, and where he died.



NOAH ADAMS<sup>5</sup> (*Joseph*,<sup>1</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>)  
married LEVINA P. COWDEN, November 22, 1834.

Their children were :

Alfred M., b. Oct. 2, 1835.

Sarah M., b. May 11, 1838; died young.

John Q., b. Aug. 23, 1840.

Merrick, b. Aug. 13, 1843; died young.

Sarah J., b. Dec. 3, 1845.

Ann L., b. Aug. 13, 1849; died in infancy.

He was an active man, the senior partner of Adams & Powers, in the coopering, lumber and mill business. He died December 17, 1859.

DANIEL ADAMS<sup>5</sup> (*Joseph*,<sup>1</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>)  
married MARY MARSHALL, 1827.

Their children were :

Nancy L., b. Nov. 13, 1828; m. Rev. Charles Brooks.

Susan A., b. —, 1832; d. 1832.

Susan A., b. Oct. 29, 1833; m. Daniel Davis, 1870.

Mary L., b. Sept. 30, 1837.

Daniel H., b. Aug. 3, 1844; died in infancy.

Mr. Adams was a trader at Townsend Centre for many years, doing business in the brick store, built by Samuel Stone. He was town clerk quite a number of years. In the latter part of his life he was engaged in the coopering business, having sold out his store. He died January 9, 1873.



BROOKS ADAMS<sup>5</sup> (*Joseph*,<sup>4</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married HANNAH SPAULDING, 1832.

Their children were :

Elizabeth S., b. Oct. 22, 1833; m. Lorenzo Hildreth.

Almira J., b. Sept. 6, 1836; m. Rev. William R. Tisdale.

Hannah A., b. June 20, 1840; died young.

Mary K., b. May 16, 1845; died young.

Amanda F., b. Oct. 26, 1847; m. Julian W. Eastman.

Sarah F., b. Nov. 27, 1849; m. Sumner N. Howard.

He lived on the farm owned by his father and grandfather. He owned and occupied a mill, at one time, situated near the Brookline road. This farm, at his decease, went out of the possession of the Adams family, "no son of his succeeding." He died December 6, 1852.

SAMUEL ADAMS<sup>6</sup> (*Joel*,<sup>5</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>4</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married, first, NANCY CLEMENT, 1831.

Their child was :

Catherine, b. June 2, 1835; m. Walter Graham.

Married, second, ELIZA A. BOWERS, 1838.

Their children were :

Mary, b. Aug. 17, 1839.

Abby G., b. Jan. 17, 1841; m. Newton C. Boutell.

Henry, b. Jan. 18, 1845; m. Catherine Tenney.

Elizabeth, b. Jan. 29, 1848.

Daniel, b. June 27, 1850; died in infancy.

George C., b. March 4, 1853.

Alice A., b. July 4, 1857.

He lived on the old Adams homestead, where his father and grandfather lived, at the east side of Hathorn's



meadow, where he died in 1858. He was a prominent, influential man, as a citizen and member of the orthodox church. Besides holding, at different times the several town offices, in 1858 he represented this senatorial district in the General Court. He probably exerted the greatest influence, of any Townsend man, in getting the railroad through this town.

ALFRED M. ADAMS<sup>6</sup> (*Noah,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph,<sup>1</sup> *Daniel,<sup>2</sup> *Daniel,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph,<sup>1</sup>) married ELIZA A. EVERETT, November 21, 1860.*****

Their child was:

Union Sheridan, b. Oct. 31, 1864.

He was born at Townsend Centre, in 1835. While at the district school he was always free from trouble, either with his teachers or school-fellows. What he lacked in brilliant scholarship, he made up in good deportment and politeness towards his parents and superiors. When he was about fifteen years of age, he was a student at New Ipswich Academy, where he remained nearly three years, during which time he applied himself diligently to his studies. He then left that school, and went to Westfield Academy, where he continued about the same length of time. On leaving the academy he went to Boston, and was a clerk in a wholesale carpet store about two years.

The firm of Adams & Powers was dissolved, by the death of Mr. Powers, in 1856. On the first day of January, 1857, Mr. Noah Adams, the surviving partner, and father of A. M. Adams, bought out the interest of the widow and Charles E. Powers, the only heir. Mr. Noah Adams, being out of health, and feeling the pressure of business,







Alfred M. Adams



was very anxious to have his son return from the city and assist him; and he made so liberal an offer to him that he complied with his father's wishes. In December, 1859, Mr. Noah Adams died. Soon after his death, Alfred M. Adams bought the interest of his mother, sister and brother, in the property, and has continued business, at that place, ever since.

The short apprenticeship which he served with his father was of incalculable benefit to him, as he thereby formed the acquaintance of his father's customers, and learned the routine of the business. As a successful manufacturer, his record will not appear to disadvantage, when viewed in connection with the efforts of men of larger experience and equally favorable surroundings. Since he has been proprietor he has made some important improvements in the mills, and extended the business considerably. He employs a good many men, and is one of the heaviest tax payers in town.

His life has exemplified the exception rather than the rule, in the descent of property from one generation to another. Generally, when a young man, not knowing how to earn a dollar with his hands, has a large property left to him, he loses it about as easily as he obtained it; and then, perhaps he will make an effort to ascertain the value of money by earning some himself. This gentleman has kept all that he inherited, and added largely to that amount. Mr. Adams is a prominent member of the republican party, and, as such, he represented the Thirty-Fifth Middlesex District in the General Court in 1877. Everything around his residence, shops, storerooms, and mills, shows a controlling influence, emanating from a man of taste, prudence, and enterprise.



DARWIN ADAMS<sup>6</sup> (*Daniel*,<sup>5</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>4</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married CATHERINE SMITH, of Hollis, N. H., 1828; she was the daughter of Rev. Eli Smith.

Their children were :

George D., b. April 18, 1830; m. Ann E. Brown.

Daniel E., b. June 22, 1832; m. Ellen F. Kingsbury.

Mary E., b. April 1, 1835.

Catherine L., b. Nov. 12, 1836; died young.

John L., b. Oct. 7, 1839. An officer during the rebellion.

He is a graduate of Dartmouth College, class of 1824, and is a retired congregational minister, residing at Groton, and is well worthy of being the son of Daniel Adams, the author.

DANIEL LUCIUS ADAMS<sup>6</sup> (*Daniel*,<sup>5</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>4</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married CORNELIA A. COOK, of New York, May 7, 1861.

Their children were :

Charles C., b. Aug. 24, 1864; d. Sept. 21, 1864.

Catherine, b. May 3, 1866.

Mary W., b. Oct. 15, 1868.

Francis M., b. June 7, 1871.

Roger C., b. May 1, 1874.

He is a graduate of Yale College, 1835. He took the degree of M. D., at Harvard College, in 1838. He practiced medicine in the City of New York, about twenty years. He is at present located at Ridgefield, Connecticut, where he continues in the medical profession.



UNION ADAMS<sup>6</sup> (*Joseph*,<sup>5</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>4</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married CHARLOTTE EMERTON, of New Hampshire, in 1865.

Their children were :

Union, b. Nov. 20, 1865.

Grace, b. June 10, 1867.

He is a merchant, residing in the City of New York ; an extensive dealer in woolens and hosiery.

STILLMAN ADAMS<sup>6</sup> (*Luther*,<sup>5</sup> *Abner*,<sup>4</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married SARAH R. TARELL, January 1, 1869.

Their children were :

Francis L., b. July 13, 1872.

Carrie M., b. July 25, 1876.

He is engaged in business in the City of New York, in partnership with Alden Warner, son of Samuel Warner, of this town. He passes part of the time on the farm where he was born, which he and his sister, Sarah Jane, still own and occupy.

GEORGE A. ADAMS<sup>6</sup> (*Abner*,<sup>5</sup> *Abner*,<sup>4</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married MARTHA L. HOWE, daughter of Albert Howe, Esq., of West Townsend, 1861.

Their children were :

Kate L., b. Feb. 22, 1867.

Albert A., b. Nov. 8, 1873.

He moved from this town to Detroit, Michigan, where he has for some time been established as a sewing machine agent.





JOSEPH ADAMS<sup>5</sup> (*Benjamin,<sup>4</sup> Daniel,<sup>3</sup> Daniel,<sup>2</sup> Joseph,<sup>1</sup>*) married MERINDA FRENCH, September 14, 1826. Their children were :

Mary E., b. April 7, 1828; m. Hubbard L. Hart, 1853.

Richard J., b. May 3, 1833; m. Emily F. Holland, 1869.

Mary H., b. July 14, 1854.

He is a farmer and resides at Cavendish, Vermont.

GEORGE D. ADAMS<sup>7</sup> (*Darwin,<sup>6</sup> Daniel,<sup>5</sup> Daniel,<sup>4</sup> Daniel,<sup>3</sup> Daniel,<sup>2</sup> Joseph,<sup>1</sup>*) married ANN E. BROWN, 1855. Their children were :

John B., b. March 26, 1857.

Mary E., b. Oct. 25, 1861.

He is a thriving farmer, living in Ohio, where his children were born.

SAMUEL ADAMS<sup>5</sup> (*Benjamin,<sup>4</sup> Daniel,<sup>3</sup> Daniel,<sup>2</sup> Joseph,<sup>1</sup>*) married CALISTA FRENCH, September 19, 1819.

Their children were :

Samuel L., b. June 16, 1820; m. Betsey M. Parker, July 2, 1848.

Charles P., b. Aug. 22, 1822; d. Dec. 21, 1823.

Marietta, b. June 18, 1824; m. Fred M. Weeks, Jan. 3, 1855.

Marcella, b. Aug. 4, 1827; m. Ira H. Adams, April 14, 1852.

Josiah Q., b. May 2, 1830; m. Ellen E. Mayo, March 12, 1874.

Jerusha J., b. Dec. 19, 1832; m. Moses Marston, Oct. 14, 1863.

Ellen M., b. Nov. 24, 1835; m. Moses Marston, Sept. 12, 1859.

Betsey M., b. Aug. 7, 1838; m. John W. Foster, Sept. 3, 1863.



He lived in Cavendish, Vermont. Died September 9, 1875. Calista (French) Adams, his wife, died February 13, 1875. Their children were born at Cavendish, Vermont. He was a farmer.

BENJAMIN ADAMS<sup>5</sup> (*Benjamin*,<sup>1</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married BETSEY CROWLEY.

Their children were :

Rosetta, b. Aug. 6, 1807 ; unmarried, lives at Akron, Ohio.

Lorinda, b. Nov. 27, 1809 ; m. Samuel Manning.

Washington, b. June 13, 1812 ; m. Dena Anna Hager.

Galusha, b. May 28, 1817 ; d. Oct. 10, 1832.

Frank, b. July 5, 1819 ; lives at Akron, Ohio.

Marcellus, b. Dec. 1, 1821 ; d. at Akron, Ohio.

Sarah J., b. Jan. 9, 1826 ; m. Loren W. Smith.

Almira W., b. April 3, 1828.

Their children were all born at Cavendish, Vermont. This Benjamin was a farmer. He and his family moved to Ohio, in 1840. Died at Akron, November 22, 1849.

DANIEL ADAMS<sup>5</sup> (*Benjamin*,<sup>1</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married, first, CATHERINE HARTWELL, of Shirley.

Their children were :

Ira H., b. Jan. 16, 1823.

Abigail A., b. June 27, 1826 ; d. May 28, 1835.

Alpheus A., b. Oct. 7, 1828.

Susan M., b. Sept. 14, 1833 ; d. Jan. 12, 1834.

James J., b. Jan. 19, 1838 ; d. Sept. 28, 1839.

Married, second, LYDIA CARYL. No children by the second marriage. He lived in Chester, Vermont.



where he died September 24, 1872. Catherine (Hartwell) Adams, his first wife, died February 1, 1846.

SAMUEL L. ADAMS<sup>6</sup> (*Samuel*,<sup>5</sup> *Benjamin*,<sup>4</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married BETSEY M. PARKER, July 2, 1848. No children. He is a grocer, and resides at Saint Charles, Kane County, Illinois.

JOSIAH Q. ADAMS<sup>6</sup> (*Samuel*,<sup>5</sup> *Benjamin*,<sup>4</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married MRS. ELLEN E. MAYO, March 12, 1874.

Their children were :

Ida May, b. Jan. 9, 1875.

Samuel, b. March 28, 1876.

He is a farmer, and "lives on the old homestead," in Cavendish, Vermont.

IRA H. ADAMS<sup>6</sup> (*Daniel*,<sup>5</sup> *Benjamin*,<sup>4</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married MARCELLA ADAMS, April 14, 1852.

Their children were :

Frank H., b. April 26, 1853.

Fred Darwin, b. Aug. 6, 1854.

Delos W., b. Sept. 15, 1855.

Samuel, b. Jan. 16, 1857.

Daniel H., b. March 17, 1860.

He is a farmer, and lives at Chester, Vermont.

WASHINGTON ADAMS<sup>6</sup> (*Benjamin*,<sup>5</sup> *Benjamin*,<sup>4</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married DENA ANN HAGER, at Cavendish, Vermont, December 20, 1854.

Their children were :

Marcellus, b. Dec. 17, 1855 ; d. Sept. 27, 1856.

Clarence, b. Nov. 18, 1857.



This gentleman is a farmer, and resides at Chester, Vermont. The author of this work is indebted largely to him for the foregoing account of most of the descendants of Benjamin Adams, his grandfather.

FRANK ADAMS, brother of Washington Adams, is a large manufacturer of sewer pipe. He is a resident of Akron, Ohio, living with his second wife. He has two children by each wife—one son and three daughters.

ALPHEUS A. ADAMS<sup>6</sup> (*Daniel*,<sup>5</sup> *Benjamin*,<sup>4</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married, first, LUCIA A. WHEELER, March 6, 1856. She died May 1, 1870.

Their children were :

Anna C., b. Dec. 24, 1860; d. Oct. 12, 1861.

Frank W., b. June 3, 1863.

M. Lucia, b. June 5, 1867.

Married, second, MARY E. ANDREWS, May 4, 1871. He is a trader and does business at Chester, Vermont, where he resides.

RICHARD J. ADAMS<sup>6</sup> (*Joseph*,<sup>5</sup> *Benjamin*,<sup>4</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married EMILY F. HOLLAND.

Their child was :

Richard F., b. July 28, 1871.

This family resides at Palatka, Putnam County, Florida.

JOHN QUINN ADAMS<sup>6</sup> (*Noah*,<sup>5</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>4</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married KATHIE CARLIN.

Their children were :

Ulric Sheridan, b. — 1874.

Arthur Earl, b. May —, 1877.





He is a farmer residing at Racine, Newton County, Missouri.

HENRY ADAMS<sup>6</sup> (*Samuel*,<sup>5</sup> *Joel*,<sup>4</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married CATHERINE E. TENNEY, November 12, 1867.

Their children were :

Henry, b. Dec. 17, 1868.

Alice Louise, b. Oct. 17, 1874.

He is a clerk in the carpet warehouse of John H. Pray, Sons & Co., in Boston.

DANIEL E. ADAMS<sup>7</sup> (*Darwin*,<sup>6</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>5</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>4</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel*,<sup>2</sup> *Joseph*,<sup>1</sup>) married ELLEN F. KINGSBURY, of Keene, 1854.

Their children were :

Charles D., b. Oct. 21, 1854.

Mary C., b. April 9, 1868.

George W., b. April 27, 1873.

This gentleman is a congregational minister, and is settled at Ashburnham.

There are only two or three male descendants of Daniel Adams, during his six consecutive generations, whose names are not contained in the foregoing memorial of this branch of the family.

SHADRACK WHITNEY, son of Jonathan Whitney, and brother of Amos, the giver of the Townsend parsonage, was born in Watertown, in 1698. He was in Townsend before it was chartered, in 1732. The Groton records contain his marriage: "Jan. 5, 1731-2, Shadrack Whitney of y<sup>e</sup> North Town to Prudence Lawrence." He was rather a prominent man, and served on several committees, appointed by the proprietors, to lay out and



apportion the undivided lands equally among them. He lived in that part of the town, which was left in Mason, by the running of the province line. It appears that in 1753, he had "a house and barn, and about twenty acres cleared and fenced, and a young orchard,"\* in that town. He owned lands in Mason, Townsend and Groton. In August, 1733, the Townsend proprietors held a meeting "at y<sup>e</sup> publick meeting house," the principal object of which was "To see if y<sup>e</sup> said proprietors think it convenient to grant a recompense (to Ephraim Sawtell) for any land which may be flowed by erecting a dam upon Squannoocook River, near y<sup>e</sup> house of John Patt in order to Sett upp mills for the benefit of said Proprietors." A grant of land was awarded to said Sawtell, at that meeting. The following record, in connection with that vote is here presented:—

"The Subscriberf whose names are underwritten (being dissatisfied with the Vote of y<sup>e</sup> Proprietorf in granting an Equivolent for Landf which may be flowed at afore Said) have Decented against y<sup>e</sup> proceedings of said vote.

EBENEZER WYMAN,  
AMOS WHITNEY,

SAMUEL KENDAL,  
JASHER WYMAN,  
SHADRACH WHITNEY.

Attest: JASHER WYMAN, *Proprietors' Clerk.*"

Sometime in the latter part of his life, he moved from Mason to Groton, where, on the twentieth of July, 1764, he made his will, which was proved, approved and allowed, on the fourteenth of the following August. After making several bequests to relatives and friends, he gave the town of Groton forty pounds, to be put upon interest

\* Hill's history of Mason, page 41.



"in such a way and manner as they shall think fit, so that the interest thereof may be improved and applied to the support of the ordained minister of the town of Groton, from time to time, forever hereafter."

The Whitneys, from that time to the present, have been noted for their liberal donations, both to religious and scientific objects. As in the flowage case cited, they have always done their own thinking, and were always ready to place themselves squarely on record.

LEVI WHITNEY was the eldest son of Daniel Whitney, who was brother of Shadrack. He was born (probably) in Shrewsbury, December 5, 1739. He came to Townsend about the time he arrived at majority. He married, first, REBECCA CLARK, daughter of Deacon Samuel Clark, December 19, 1764.

Their children were :

Amos, b. Feb. 11, 1766 ; d. Oct. 2, 1854.

Asa, b. ———, 1767 ; d. Feb. —, 1851.

Sarah, b. ———, 1769 ; m. Eleazer Flint, of Reading, May 3, 1791.

Aaron, b. ———, ——— ; married and lived for a while in Milford, N. H. ; afterwards he removed to the State of Maine, where he died. Tradition says he was a large and powerful man, six and one-half feet in height.

Sibyl, b. ———, ——— ; m. Cyrus Smith, of New Ipswich, N. H.

Sewell, b. ———, ——— ; had no family. He was drowned by being accidentally knocked from the deck of a sloop at Lansingburg, N. Y.

The father of this family married, second, Mrs. LYDIA (RANDALL) PRICE, the widow of Major Henry



Price, the first deputy grand master of Masons in America. They had one daughter :

Rebecca, b. July 29, 1781 ; m. Benjamin Wallace, of Townsend, Sept. 18, 1799. They have descendants, at present, in this town.

During the revolutionary war, Levi Whitney was an officer in the commissary department, with the rank of lieutenant. He was a man of much mechanical ingenuity, and a manufacturer of agricultural tools. His children were all born in Townsend.

AMOS WHITNEY, the son of Levi, married ANNA BROWN, of Concord, August 16, 1789. He was in the coopering business, at Chelmsford, now Middlesex Village, where he lived and where he acquired a large property in that trade. He died October 2, 1854.

Their children were :

Amos, b. —, 1790 ; d. Oct. 19, 1873.

Sewell, b. — — ; died young.

ASA WHITNEY, the son of Levi, married MARY WALLACE, February 25, 1790. He was a blacksmith and resided in this town. He died December 27, 1851, aged eighty-four years ; she died February 11, 1846.

Their children were :

Polly, b. May 29, 1790 ; m. James French, of Henniker, N. H.

Asa, b. Dec. 1, 1791.

Samuel, b. Feb. 27, 1794 ; d. at Waltham, Nov. —, 1870.





Sewell, b. March 18, 1796; d. Oct. 26, 1818.

Rebecca, b. Nov. 4, 1797; d. Sept. 1, 1860.

Sarah, b. May 3, 1800; m. George Hartwell, d. Sept. 28, 1829.

Levi, b. March 19, 1802; resides in Cleveland, Ohio.

Joel, b. June 8, 1807; resides in Winchester.

The father of this family was an upright, hard-working man, but possessed of little financial ability. These sons and daughters were all born on Nissequassick Hill.

ASA WHITNEY, oldest son of Asa, married CLARINDA WILLIAMS, at Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, on the twenty-second day of August, 1815. She was the daughter of Ralph Williams, of Groton, Connecticut.

Their children were:

William Wallace, b. Sept. 1, 1817; unmarried; died in Cuba, Nov. 17, 1847. He was a civil engineer.

George, b. Oct. 17, 1819; married; has one daughter. Resides in Philadelphia.

Mary Jane, b. Nov. 8, 1831; m. John H. Redfield, Aug. 16, 1843, then of New York, now of Philadelphia. Has four children.

Daniel Lyman, b. Feb. —, 1824; died in infancy.

Eliza, b. Jan 25, 1826; m. Rev. M. A. DeWolfe Howe, June 9, 1857. Has three children.

John Randall, b. Oct. 21, 1828; married, and has seven children. Resides in Philadelphia.

James Shields, b. Dec. 2, 1830; married, and has four children. Resides in Philadelphia.

These sons and daughters were all born at Brownville, New York. Asa Whitney, the father of this family, at the age of thirteen years sought employment in Boston;



after some months returned home, and, after attending school for a time, returned to his father's blacksmith shop, and having learned the trade, he went to Swanzey, New Hampshire, where he worked on cotton mill machinery, for two years or more. In 1813, he went to Brattleboro, Vermont, and engaged in the same business, but was burned out and lost all his earnings. Soon afterward he went to Brownville, New York, where he resided several years. For a time he lived at Schenectady, and again at Albany, New York. He was then superintendent of the Mohawk & Hudson Railroad. At one time he held the office of Canal Commissioner. His reputation as a railroad engineer, at one time, was so high that he was consulted on the question of the gauge of the Erie Railroad, then being built. He gave an elaborate opinion in favor of the four feet eight and one-half inch gauge, which, had it been adopted then (as it has been recently), would have saved the railway millions of dollars. From 1842 to 1847, with M. W. Baldwin, he was engaged, in the City of Philadelphia, in the manufacture of locomotives, on an extensive scale. In 1847, he commenced the manufacture of car wheels, and founded the establishment still carried on, at Philadelphia, by the firm of "A. Whitney & Sons." Before his death, this firm manufactured about 75,000 car wheels annually. He was a man of great benevolence, giving liberally through life, and at his death he left by his will \$50,000 to found a chair of dynamical engineering, in the University of Pennsylvania, and about \$40,000 to other charitable purposes. He left a princely fortune to his family, and was probably the only millionaire among the sons of



Townsend. He died at Philadelphia, June 4, 1874. His widow is still living (1878).

SAMUEL WHITNEY, brother of Asa, married POLLY WALLACE, September 30, 1813.

Their children were :

Mary, b. ———; m. ——— Shattuck.

Samuel b. ———.

Wallace, b. ———; m. Mary A. Brooks, 1844.

He is a machinist.

Harriet, b. ———.

This man is noticed on page 251 of this book, as the inventor of the planing machine, now used extensively. He possessed a great amount of inventive and mechanical skill, but was deficient in matters of business. He moved to Waltham, where he died, in November, 1870.

SEWELL WHITNEY, another brother, never married. He died October 26, 1818, aged twenty-two. He was the only one of the family who worked on wood, the others being disciples of Tubal Cain. He made bowls, bottles, and trays. His gallon bottles were made of poplar, one piece of wood, turned inside and outside, while the wood was green. Seasoned heads of the same wood were then put in and when dried, they were air-tight. Many a thirsty haymaker has been refreshed from these hoopless samples of woodenware.

AMOS WHITNEY, the son of Amos and Anna (Brown) Whitney, born 1790, never married. He was a man of exemplary character, without being particularly enterprising. In 1854, his father died, and left him a large



amount of wealth which was acquired in the coopering business. His pecuniary means were ample without this additional inheritance. He left a will at his decease, devising about \$20,000 to his relatives, \$2,500 to the "Old Ladies Home," a charitable institution, at Lowell, and made Tufts College the residuary legatee. The amount of his wealth, at his death, was over \$50,000. He died at Middlesex Village, October 19, 1873.

There is not a person, at present, by the name of Whitney, among the inhabitants of Townsend. A granddaughter of Lydia (Price) Whitney, the widow Rebecca (Wallace) Simonds, a few of her descendants and the descendants of the late Benjamin Wallace, are the only persons claiming the least relationship to the descendants of Levi Whitney, the ancestor of the people by that name formerly in Townsend. No record of the birth of any of the Whitney families herein described, can be found in the town records. The family bibles and moss-covered grave-stones have sacredly preserved what few dates are here presented, concerning the births and deaths of these inventors and philanthropists, their children, and those whom they loved.















